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Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 14 Jun

NC2106195794

[Editorial report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 14 June issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Chief Editor on Islamic Awakening In Turkey
2. Chief Editor Notes Destruction of Liberties
3. Lawyers Moderation, National Unity Underlined
4. Writer Views Middle Eastern Market From Islamic Standpoint
5. Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Guide Preaches Islamic Values
6. Columnist Highlights Situation of Muslims in Africa

CHIEF EDITOR ON ISLAMIC AWAKENING IN TURKEY

Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn publishes on page 2 a 2,500-word article in which he reviews Turkey's history before and after Kamal Ataturk and just what led to its secularism. The writer then explains how Islamic awakening started slowly after Ataturk's death and concludes: "The Arab and Islamic world is witnessing a common intricate process to retrieve its Islamic identity. The clever rulers—if they do exist—must not uselessly burden the nation with conflicts and shocks. While Turkey seeks to include the Islamic movement in its democratic process, the very clever rulers of Egypt still think that they can liquidate the Islamic movement, thus making us suffer from internal attrition for a while longer and making sure that Islamic victory is born only through pain, suffering, and bleeding."

CHIEF EDITOR NOTES DESTRUCTION OF LIBERTIES

Page 2 also features a 1,000-word article by Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn in which he draws attention to the erosion of the democratic system in Egypt. He notes that at the beginning of "our lame democratic experiment" the regime applied democracy little-by-little because the Egyptian people were not advanced and could not adapt to democracy all at once, the situation has worsened since the president's third term. The regime has moved to "exclude liberties from the democratic system little-by-little." The writer also criticizes the government's mishandling of the case of the millionaire Ishaq Hakim who swindled the banks and individuals of tens of millions of pounds.

LAWYERS MODERATION, NATIONAL UNITY UNDERLINED

A 1,500-word article by Qutb al-'Arabi on page 3 discusses the lawyers' crisis. The writer says that despite the heated debate that took place during the meeting of the general lawyers syndicate council and the branch syndicates last Wednesday evening, the final resolutions were moderate, aimed at finding a "peaceful solution to the crisis." The resolutions called for sending a letter in the name of the branch syndicates to the president of the republic and forming a delegation of the syndicate council to meet with the prime minister to demand an immediate investigation of the death of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani and the quick release of the detainees.

The writer adds that while the lawyers syndicate displayed a measure of flexibility in dealing with the crisis and gave the government a chance to solve the crisis peacefully, the government did not show any flexibility and escalated its measures against the lawyers by continuing to detain the lawyers' leaders, including some members of the syndicate council, and maintaining the media campaign against the syndicate.

A 500-word unattributed article on the same page notes that the lawyers' crisis has enhanced national unity among the lawyers. The article says "the recent lawyers' syndicate crisis has highlighted the genuine unity among the lawyers, despite differences in their political and religious affiliations." During the lawyers demonstration, Sayf-al-Islam al-Banna (Muslim Brotherhood) stood next to the Nasirist Samih 'Ashur, the Wafdist 'Abd-al-Halim Mandhur, and the communist Nabil al-Hilali. Three Copts were among the lawyers and citizens arrested by the police. Coptic lawyers also took part in defending their arrested brothers.

WRITER VIEWS MIDDLE EASTERN MARKET FROM ISLAMIC STANDPOINT

AL-SHA'B publishes an 500-word article by Dr. Husayn Shahatah on page 5 in which he views the proposed Middle Eastern common market from an Islamic economic standpoint. He notes that the purpose of the Islamic economy is to develop the land to achieve a good and dignified life for the people to worship to God. Economy in Islam is linked to moral and religious values. God has prohibited monopoly, fraud, and exploitation. But, the writer continues, the proposed Middle Eastern market will not be like that. It will be a crusader, Zionist market dominated by the Jews. "A study and analysis of everything that has been published about the purpose and objectives of this market reveals that the aim is to control the resources of the Arab Islamic nation and bring it under the hegemony of the Jews (Israel), the United States, and the West." This is economic exploitation. They want to subordinate the Arab Islamic states to non-Muslims to "control their political, educational, social, and economic decisions."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD DEPUTY GUIDE PREACHES ISLAMIC VALUES

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Guide Mustafa Mashhur publishes an 1,800 word article on page 5 in which he attempts to promote Islam. He begins by citing passages from a book by Imam al-Banna, founder of the Islamic Brotherhood movement, entitled "The Brothers Under the Banner of the Koran," in which he explains the purity, honesty, and universality of the Islamic faith. Mashhur notes that the prophet began his mission alone. He faced great difficulties. But God's light descended on him and dispelled the darkness of ignorance within a few years, clearing the Arabian Peninsula of idols and infidels.

He then explains how the invasion of materialistic cultures left their effect on the Islamic countries, prompting the Muslims to deviate from the essence of their religion. He quotes the following passage from Imam al-Banna's book: "Our duty is to face this wave of materialistic culture until it recedes and our nation becomes free of its afflictions. We must not stop there, but pursue it in its own country until the entire world shouts the name of the prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, and the canopy of Islam spread over the earth."

Mashhur adds: "All Muslims have a responsibility before God to spread this true religion and to save humanity from the darkness of materialism, its tyranny and oppression, and to bring humanity to the light of Islam, its justice, security, and peace." Islam, he says, is a complete and comprehensive religion, because it is from God, who is complete.

Mashhur then moves on to refute the claim of some "defeated writers that the Islamists want to establish a religious government with divine authority as in the middle ages. He also refutes the claim that the Islamists are "seeking to overthrow the present regime." He says this is a false claim, refuted by reality and facts. "We believe in pluralism and democracy that adheres to the teachings of Islam, which is the official religion of the state. We do not believe in violence or anything of that sort. We do not seek power for ourselves." Those who work for Islam, he concludes, will not relax or weaken as their reward will be with God.

COLUMNIST HIGHLIGHTS SITUATION OF MUSLIMS IN AFRICA

In his 200-word regular column "This is Our Religion" on page 12, Muhammad al-Ghazali brings attention to the situation of the Muslims in Africa. He notes how European colonialism partitioned Africa in such a way as to deprive the Muslims of an independent state. He concludes that the "Muslims south of Egypt and Sudan, and around the Horn of Africa are facing strife and loss. Plans are being implemented to liquidate them and their religion. Zionism and the crusaders are behind this new offensive. An unjust and treacherous threat is facing the Muslims in this area, and those of us in the Nile Valley and the Arabian Peninsula must be aware of what is happening and probe its dimensions. If it does not hit us today, it will not miss us tomorrow."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Threatens To Call Off Gaza, Jericho Visit

TA2106182794 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat this evening threatened to put off his visit to Gaza and Jericho due to the announcement issued by Rabin's bureau whereby the prime minister and the foreign minister instructed their aides to sever their contacts with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi. Dr. al-Tibi, an Israeli citizen, played a prominent role in the contacts between Israel and the PLO as 'Arafat's adviser. According to a legal opinion drafted a few months ago by Yo'el Singer, the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, al-Tibi cannot take part in the negotiations because he is an Israeli citizen.

Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen has learned that there have been no official contacts with al-Tibi over the last few months anyway, and that today's announcement came after it was learned that al-Tibi and elements in the foreign minister's bureau continue to be in contact.

Al-Tibi argued this evening that he met a few weeks ago with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in the latter's home despite Singer's legal opinion. Officials in the prime minister's bureau explained that anybody may speak to al-Tibi, but that he is not an official address for negotiations.

'Arafat Delays Return Until Mid-Jul

NC2206101394 Paris AFP in English 0958 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Jericho, West Bank, June 22 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, who was expected here by the end of June, will not be coming before the middle of next month, a senior Palestinian official said Wednesday [22 June].

Colonel Jibril Rujub, head of preventive security in the new Palestinian self-rule enclave of Jericho, said: "The main reason for his delay is that the international donors are late in sending us the aid to start building our infrastructure."

But he also said political factors such as the Palestinian prisoners and Israeli security arrangements at checkpoints were also behind the delay.

'Arafat had been expected in Gaza and Jericho by the end of June.

Rujub refused to reveal the exact date of the PLO chief's arrival but said: "He is not expected before mid-July."

He said questions such as the release of thousands of Palestinians from Israeli jails "must be settled before he comes."

Israeli measures at checkpoints around Jericho must be addressed before 'Arafat's visit, he added.

Israeli soldiers on Monday stopped chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Sha'th at checkpoints twice during a visit to Jericho. It took several hours for him to get through one and only then after the intervention of Israeli deputy chief of staff Amnon Shahaq.

Palestinian officials complain that Israelis are violating the autonomy agreement by holding them up at checkpoints.

Minutes of 'Secret' Meeting With Russians Reported

TA2106171894 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 20 Jun 94 p 5

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Damascus—On the basis of a proposal by the Russian Embassy in Damascus, a secret meeting was held on 25 May in the Syrian capital between a high-ranking Russian delegation and representatives of the alliance of the 10 factions opposed to the peace agreements signed between the PLO and Israel.

The following is a summarized text of the minutes of this meeting with a prologue drafted by the participants, without any additions or deletions:

On the basis of arrangements by the Russian Embassy in Damascus, a meeting was held with Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian president's envoy and head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department, in the presence of Zutov, the Russian ambassador in Damascus, and Charge d'Affaires Bogdanov. On the Palestinian side the meeting was attended by brothers and comrades Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Abu-'Ali Mustafa, deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Talal Naji, deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command; Khalid al-Fahum, leader of the Salvation Front; and Sami Qandil, member of al-Sa'iqah command.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Russian side stressed the friendly and comradely relations with the Palestinians. It lauded the role of national factions as forces who bear the responsibility of representing the Palestinian people. It also affirmed the Russian stance toward the present Palestinian situation and summed it up in the following points:

—We believe that there are shortcomings in the Cairo agreement, but it is an important step in the right direction.

—The PLO is an incomparable political vanguard which is representing the Palestinian people appropriately.

—We are conveying our ideas to you as friends. Hence, we believe the following: Your disagreement with the PLO leadership will continue, but we hope that this disagreement will not turn into a conflict in which violence and force is used. An example of this is Yemen and what is happening there. All disagreements do not justify infighting.

—The withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho and the entry of Palestinian policemen is a significant achievement. The attainment of the bulk of your rights will depend on the degree of Palestinian cohesion.

—If all factions help President 'Arafat manage affairs smoothly and if you cooperate together, the scope of those rights will increase and vice versa.

—We are convinced that Gaza-Jericho is the starting point and that more important ones will follow.

—We received 'Arafat as president and acted in the same way toward Rabin in order to maintain the equilibrium.

The response of the Palestinian factions' representatives was as follows:

Hawatimah explained the situation with regard to the settlement track and pointed to 'Arafat's persistence in acting rashly, destroying the national alliance, striking at the national program, and excluding the institutions. He said: We were the first to initiate a national political strategy in support of international legitimacy. No one has remained with 'Arafat except his party. Even those who participated in Madrid deserted him in Oslo and Cairo.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa said: We hope that you will not get the impression that opposition comes only from Damascus. It is a comprehensive popular state. 'Arafat and his team have chosen a path that will lead neither to rights, nor to peace, nor to security. They must bear responsibility for the disaster of the Palestinian cause. We will not deal with 'Arafat because not only has he deviated from the national program, but he has betrayed it. We are opposed to any rapprochement with him. As for the policemen, we have no police force or authority. All this is in the hands of 'Arafat and his team. You should tell him what you are telling us now. 'Arafat is currently facing three difficult political, economic, and security tests.

Al-Fahum said: Those who signed the agreement are facing a crisis and the opposition is facing a crisis also. Despite this, opposition to the agreement is greater. There is dissatisfaction with the agreement. Do not demand from the opposition something for which it is not responsible. Rather, demand that 'Arafat stop making concessions. We hope that you will play a more active role in the Middle East.

Talal Naji said: You have no role in the settlement. Everything that happens in the region emanates from the United States and Israel. You only promote that. I do not know why. You believe 'Arafat's lies about the opposition while he is preparing himself to play the role of the Palestinian Antoine Lahd. We will agree if you apply international legitimacy to the Palestinian problem, but you will do no such thing. Tell 'Arafat and his group to stop threatening and heralding a new stage of suppression. Our people accept neither bargaining nor what the Oslo team has done.

Before the meeting ended, talk reverted to the head of the Russian delegation's remarks about the need to act under 'Arafat's umbrella. Then Zutov, the Russian ambassador, hoped that the meetings would continue.

Authority Minister Discusses Laws, Foreign Aid

NC2206092094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Gaza, 22 Jun (MENA)—Furayh Abu-Middayn, minister of justice in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has stated that it is important to have legal control over the Palestinian streets and enforce the sovereignty of the law in all spheres, including traffic regulations, respect for private property, and other affairs. He pointed out that this is necessary after the past four years, during which there was a clear lack of control.

In an exclusive interview with MENA in Gaza, Abu-Middayn said that this control has actually begun and that after the Palestinian police arrived, carrying weapons in public has disappeared, apart from those who possess licensed arms.

He explained that another new phenomenon has been the holding of the Egyptian-curriculum general secondary education examination in a legal manner without cheating and other irregularities that had plagued past examinations.

Concerning education in the Gaza Strip, Abu-Middayn said it has always been linked with Egypt. He pointed out that the golden age of Gaza education was in the 1950's and 1960's when Palestinian graduates of Egyptian universities spread in the world bearing their degrees. He said 1,500 Palestinians graduated annually from those universities.

He asserted that Egypt has always remained committed to the maintenance of high standards of education in Gaza and the curricula taught were Egyptian curricula. He explained that with regard to the general secondary education examination, Egypt handles the entire supervisory process and corrects the examination papers.

Abu-Middayn said that this educational link with Egypt has strengthened the bond with that fraternal country, a sentiment that is clearly felt in Gaza's streets. He noted that this cultural link strengthened Palestinian steadfastness during the years of occupation.

Abu-Middayn told MENA that during this week's general education examination in Gaza, the Palestinian police oversaw the examination committees in an outsider supervisory capacity and this ended the cheating that used to take place in the past few years.

Asked what laws were being used in Gaza now, the PNA justice minister said that the central law now used is the Constitution of 1962, which separates the executive, judicial, and legislative powers and lays down the legal provisions of these powers. He noted that the Constitution also details the provisions of individual liberties. He explained that this Constitution, which was drawn up during the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's tenure, is still in force. He also said there are Palestinian laws dating back to Ottoman times but the major part of the laws were enacted during the British mandate.

Furayh Abu-Middayn said that during the Egyptian administration of the Gaza Strip these laws were amended to meet the wishes of the Palestinians. The legislation was based upon the desires of the Palestinians.

He clarified that the effort exerted during the 18 years of Palestinian administration was destroyed completely during the past 27 years because Israel passed 1,200 military orders that govern all aspects of daily life, from security restrictions down to educational cont[illegible] These orders included all aspects of daily life, which was "the most dangerous issue confronting us."

The minister of justice in the PNA said that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement did not in fact cancel all these orders. He noted that there are texts stipulating, for example, that if there are any differences regarding certain issues, they will be referred to legislators of the highest order, and so on.

Mr. Furayh Abu-Middayn said: We will not abide by the military orders except as they benefit the Palestinian people because there are trade and material dealings that have taken place during the past 27 years which we cannot erase with the stroke of a pen.

To illustrate this point, he gave the example of the securities and traffic law which was being applied in the Gaza Strip. He pointed out that these progressive laws could be reformulated and made use of once again.

He said that the laws we will respect, as stipulated by the agreement, are those laws dealing with external security and the security of the settlements. He clarified that these are things they will not interfere in. However, contrary to this point, we will cancel all laws that go against the wishes of our people, in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, which forbids the occupier of a land from enforcing any laws except for those dealing with security only.

He gave the example of the value added tax Israel enforced on the Gazans amounting to 17 percent on all goods. He affirmed that the PNA will cancel any laws violating the Geneva Convention and going against the interests of our people.

Mr. Furayh Abu-Middayn said: We are also reorganizing the judiciary so that it would become an independent and sovereign entity that does not submit to any organization because this is the only guarantee that could safeguard us against deviations.

The Palestinian justice minister added in his interview with MENA: We are also reorganizing and arranging the general prosecution and adding new branches to it. He said: We might turn to legal experts from sisterly Egypt for help in this task because until 5 June 1967 the prosecutor general was from Egypt.

The Palestinian official said: We will also try to avoid the state security and military court. But there have been cases of spying. We are not talking about agents who have stopped their activities, but about those who opt to continue cooperating with the Israelis. We will not allow that at all.

He said there are those who are putting pressure on us to form a military court. But President 'Arafat and I personally prefer to refer such cases to a civilian court.

He clarified that this is a sensitive topic that we will address with wisdom. However, we consider the continuation of cases of spying for Israel a violation of the peace agreements.

He affirmed that we will condemn any individual who causes the death of a Palestinian citizen, because such an individual will be working for a third party.

Continuing his remarks in the interview, PNA Minister of Justice Furayh Abu-Middayn said: We will begin from scratch. We need narcotics laboratories to analyze drugs so that all criminals will be brought to justice. We also need to conduct post-mortem examinations in homicides cases. We still do not have archives for fingerprints and criminal evidence. We need a lot of things.

Abu-Middayn added: We have enough Palestinian qualifications, but we are still short of capabilities and material prerequisites. We are still just beginning and we are short of everything. We have been completely linked to Israel during its 27 years of occupation. There is no infrastructure in Gaza and we must be self-sufficient or we will remain tied down by the occupation. Europe and the United States must help us to face the circumstances.

In his interview, Abu-Middayn said that Europe was rebuilt after World War II with the Marshall Plan. The West established Israel here. When [Egyptian President] 'Abd-al-Nasir nationalized the Suez Canal [in 1956], the French supplied Israel with atomic capabilities. But we are only demanding bread.

Abu-Middayn asserted that the Europeans must understand that the Palestinian people are determined to make the Middle East peace a success. He added: However, we do not need peace on paper or artificial security. We need genuine peace. The new Middle East cannot be built at the expense of our rights. The world must help the Palestinians so that peace will be achieved in the region. We want to close the file on this cause.

Abu-Middayn added: We are trying to tell the Israelis to leave the Palestinians alone so that new relations can be set up. We have offered 65,000 martyrs over the past 45 years. Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria also offered thousands of martyrs. This file must be closed.

Abu-Middayn pointed out that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement is not the dream of the Palestinian people. It is also unfair. But it is the best that we can get.

As regards the agents collaborating with Israel, the Palestinian official noted that those who ceased their cooperation with Israel after the signing of the agreement in Washington on 13 September will not be sought. He denied that there are 22,000 agents. We know all the agents, he added. Abu-Middayn said that anyone who kills Palestinians will be hanged. He was referring to the operation in which six Palestinians were killed on 25 April.

Concluding his interview with MENA, Abu-Middayn said that Israel's agents will not enter Gaza. Israel will not be able to carry out operations with the aim of driving a wedge between the organizations because communications continue among them.

Leaders Said Critical of Economic Accord, IDF

TA1906150694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, the person in charge of economic affairs in the autonomy, said upon arriving in Jericho that he is opposed to the economic agreement signed with Israel since, in his opinion, this entire agreement works in Israel's favor and lacks the basic conditions for the realization of the Palestinians' rights. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in a talk with correspondents al-Nashashibi said he would base the Palestinian budget and daily expenditures on the collection of taxes. In a few days he intends to establish the nucleus for the Palestinian Finance Ministry in Jericho, and later he will recruit employees and experts who will work in this ministry's offices in Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Our correspondent adds that Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat leveled harsh criticism at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers in the Jericho area, saying the IDF still behaves like an occupying Army, blocking the town and barring tourists from entering, although it is clear that tourism is an important economic branch for the regional residents. According to 'Urayqat, one of the IDF officers said at the joint security committee that Jericho can be reoccupied within five minutes, and such a statement only proves the Israeli Army's aggressiveness.

Authority Official 'Urayqat on Detainees, Aid

NC1806074594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Telephone Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian National Authority, in Jerusalem, by

Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar"—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Dr. 'Urayqat, welcome to our program.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Concerning the Palestinian detainees that Israel pledged to release in accordance with the Cairo agreement, what is the latest news?

['Urayqat] The Cairo agreement clearly states that during the five weeks following the signing of the agreement the Israeli Government would release 5,000 detainees. Some of these detainees, the political detainees, were supposed to be freed with no strings attached and allowed to go to their homes in the West Bank and Gaza. Others were to be handed over to the Palestinian Authority until their sentences ended. In our understanding, the latter detainees are those held on criminal charges.

However, currently the Israeli Government is releasing political detainees and dumping them at the checkpoints around Jericho, practically forcing us to keep them in Jericho and preventing them from leaving. The Israelis freed 280 detainees this way and plan to do the same with another 1,000. This procedure contravenes the fourth Geneva Convention, which states that the authorities who release a prisoner are responsible for his safe transport to his home town. It also contravenes the Cairo agreement and places the Palestinian Authority in a very delicate position; it knows that the Jericho area cannot absorb such great numbers because it lacks the necessary infrastructure.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. 'Urayqat, do you think that Israel, through such measures, means to disrupt the work of the Palestinian National Authority?

['Urayqat] There is another matter. For the past eight days, Israeli authorities have prevented tourists from coming to Jericho. Jericho, as you may know, is a tourist area that normally receives about 1,000 tourists per day. Tourism provides the main income for most people, workers as well as hotel and restaurant owners. For the past eight days, Israel has prevented tourists from coming to Jericho, claiming that it is unsafe. In doing so, Israel is fully aware of the devastation it is causing to a major economic activity in this area.

Furthermore, Palestinians face harassment at Israeli checkpoints. The Israeli Government is still thinking of itself as an occupier. It has not, for one moment, tried to think of itself as a peace-maker or a neighbor. It hastens to seal off Gaza and Jericho as soon as any incident occurs. In my opinion, such acts mean that the agreement is not being given a chance and the Israeli Government alone is to blame. Israel has left us this area in economic shambles. Israel, which has occupied this area for the past 27 years, must be aware of the burning need to create a reliable infrastructure in it. We have begun to build this infrastructure with our own resources, but these resources, and the Israeli Government knows this, are negligible. Israel knows that during the past month we have begun operating more than 30 departments. If Israel continues to pursue its current policies, this area will be left with a bleak future. If Rabin's aim is to undermine the current effort, he, in my opinion, is about to succeed.

[Al-Jundi] Has a specific date been set for the arrival of Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to the self-rule areas?

['Urayqat] This issue has nothing to do with the arrival of President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. It is related to requirements that must be met so he may travel to the self-rule area. In other words, the donor countries have not yet implemented any of the projects they promised. The people judge peace, and trust it according to the tangible changes they see on the ground. They do not care for clauses, figures, or words. The countries that agreed to implement projects have not done so. The Palestinians have done all that they were required, on all levels. We exerted great efforts to activate all departments, and preparations are under way to establish other essential departments. However, the issue is that before president Abu-'Ammar arrives, basic requirements must be available that up to now have been nonexistent. After 27 years of occupation the infrastructure is destroyed. The Jericho hospital in 1967 was much better than it is now. The same goes for the irrigation system, water, electricity, roads, and all other utilities. We maintain that 2,600 projects were approved for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The donor nations agreed to implement these projects at their own expense and the necessary funds were specified. The question posed now is why these projects are not being implemented. I believe that the Palestinian National Authority, no matter what its capabilities, will begin its work 27 years late; that is, the natural development in this area stopped 27 years ago. No matter how hard or fast we work, for years we will lag behind. In other words, the longer the donor countries take to implement these projects, the more problems we will face. Therefore, these projects must be implemented, so the Palestinian National Authority may do its duty.

[Al-Jundi] The Palestinian effort is the main factor in development along with the foreign aid?

['Urayqat] Certainly. All I want to say is that we are extremely poor people, particularly in Gaza, Jericho, and the rest of the West Bank. So we cannot deliver with our own resources. We have succeeded in activating 30 departments where we process documents and papers. We have processed more than 1,000 documents in less than three weeks; but we need resources to work out new systems and establish other departments. We have done this with our own resources. The sons of our people contributed time and effort to this. What we reached in Paris was an agreement approving payment of salaries from now until August. This is good, but what I mean is that the requirements of the infrastructure and securing these requirements, are necessary to turn the wheel of the

Palestinian economy. We need essential infrastructure projects to turn the wheel of the economy. We need resources to create jobs, to encourage private investments, and to create an integrated economic atmosphere so that the wheel of the economy may turn. As I said, no matter how fast or hard we work we will be lagging behind for many years.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

Al-Agha on Housing Plans for Vacated Settlements

TA2006100694 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 17 Jun 94 p 14

[Text] The appointed Palestinian Housing Minister, Zakariya al-Agha, said that the ministry is planning to establish Palestinian housing neighborhoods in the Jewish settlements in Gaza that he is assured will be evacuated in three years time, according to the agreement with Israel.

He pointed out that the plans being prepared aim to find an urgent solution to the problem of lack of land in Gaza for constructing houses.

Al-Agha said that the Palestinians are in need of 250,000 housing units, 110,000 of them are needed in Gaza and he refuses to build skyscrapers of more than eight storeys each. "We want to keep the general character of Gaza."

Al-Agha revealed that the headquarters of his ministry will be in Gaza, and indicated that the reason behind this decision is that his ministry will be needed there as most of its work will be focused in Gaza, while branches of the ministry in other parts will be in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

He expects that these projects will absorb most of the labor force in construction. "The implementation of this plan will need 150,000 laborers," he added.

Al-Agha said that his ministry will coordinate with the Higher Palestinian Council and will try to enroll the council with the ministry responsibilities.

Al-Husayni on Preparations for 15 Oct Elections

TA1706114194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni says preparations are underway for the elections in the territories. He told reporter Jack Katzenell the proportional system will be used to give the opposition parties fair representation.

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] I believe that elections will be on 15 October.

[Katzenell] Do you know if the Palestinian opposition parties have agreed to take part in the elections?

[Al-Husayni] We hope that they will, especially if they will have a list, and we hope that everyone will be there, even if they will be with a small percentage or a bigger percentage, he will be represented there. This is what we are aiming at. [end recording]

Fatah's al-Hasan Said To Launch Opposition Party

TA2106140894 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 20 Jun 94 p 3

[Text] Reliable information from Fatah sources indicates that Khalid al-Hasan, considered one of Fatah's historic leaders and the most prominent member of Fatah's founding Central Committee, is currently thinking of emerging from the isolation that he imposed on himself following the signing of the Oslo accord and is planning to launch an opposition political party.

It is common knowledge that al-Hasan enjoys the support of sectors in Fatah as he was the first to broach the issue of a political settlement with Israel. However, he opposed the current peace process and the agreements stemming from it because they do not respond to the Palestinian people's minimum national rights, as he viewed and continues to view them in his theory for a settlement.

Hamas Official al-Zahhar Discusses Autonomy

JN1706192794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1748 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Interview with Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, "one of the most prominent Islamic trend leaders in Gaza" by Sophia 'Amarah in Gaza; date not given; from "The Event" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Amarah] Dr. al-Zahhar, what formula does Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] set for dealing with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]?

[Al-Zahhar] Certain yardsticks and principles govern Hamas' dealing with the PNA. The first point is that we welcome the return of every Palestinian who has lived in the diaspora. This does not mean we approve of the autonomy or that we agree to participate in it. The second point is that we are against internecine fighting and against shedding Palestinian blood at the hands of Palestinians, no matter the causes or motives. The third point is that we do not participate in the PNA. However, as sons of this homeland, we will participate in all elections that will serve the people, whether municipal, rural council, chambers of commerce, or trade union and student elections. The fourth point is that we support the freedom of action of any person who works to serve this homeland. We believe every Palestinian, after the protracted period of occupation, has the right to have his own means of dealing with the public through the establishment of party and media institutions. Every person has the right to demonstrate and to express his opinion.

['Amarah] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, some problems emerged between Hamas and the Palestinian police at the beginning. Are there still any problems? What is Hamas' real position on the issue of security in the autonomy areas?

[Al-Zahhar] We regret to say that the stand of the police was unjustified. While the police force had not yet completed its organization, the agents did their best to fabricate sedition to kill Fatah and Hamas leaders and to set the occupied territories on fire. They made confessions to this effect. While the Palestinian force had not completed its organization, it was necessary to end this sedition and put out this fire. The Palestinian police made several statements that were unacceptable to the ordinary Palestinian, and to Hamas. Matters remained as they are. We hope that in the not too distant future, these differences will be settled and that a balanced formula can be forged for dealings between the PNA and all the forces which have a presence in the occupied territories, particularly the opposition forces.

['Amarah] Where does the movement stand on the residual Israeli military presence in the Gaza strip?

[Al-Zahhar] As far as we are concerned, it is not a residual presence. Occupation is present. What happened was a redeployment of occupation forces. Israel left some sections of Gaza for other sections of Gaza. If anything, Israel has stepped up its presence. It is in control of crossings and the main roads that link the Gaza strip and its villages. It is in control of livelihoods and everything. So, for us it is rationed occupation and it is unacceptable. Palestinians are entitled to defend themselves against occupation, from which they have suffered a great deal.

['Amarah] Will Hamas [word indistinct] continue the armed struggle against occupation in the occupied territory of the West Bank?

[Al-Zahhar] That is what Hamas said in its latest leaflet, emphasizing its continuing jihad line. The leaflet that was issued on 15 June emphasized Hamas' and other Palestinian factions' right to defend themselves against the Israeli presence in the occupied land, whether that takes the form of soldiers or settlers.

['Amarah] Preparation has begun for [words indistinct] Palestinian elections. Are you prepared to run in these elections alongside the Palestinian Authority?

[Al-Zahhar] The Islamic side, Hamas in particular, will not contest the self-rule elections. As for elections that are unconnected with the self-rule authority, as I have said, these will be contested, as has been our practice during occupation.

['Amarah] Israel recently levelled accusations that Hamas has been receiving aid [word indistinct] from Saudi Arabia and Iran, [word indistinct] the chances for a peace settlement.

[Al-Zahhar] There is nothing wrong with Hamas or the other factions receiving assistance from brother Arabs or Muslims. However, Hamas has not received a single piaster from the Saudi government. An ordinary Muslim, whether in Saudi Arabia or anywhere else, contributes zakat [alms tax], which comes to 2.5 percent [of a Muslim's income] annually, and this is given to known categories in Islam—the poor, those who handle the zakat and for those engaged in the zakat raising effort and the effort to get slaves freed and for needy strangers. As you know, the Palestinian people are going through exceptional circumstances—poverty, [word indistinct], displacement, and deportation, and consequently, they qualify for zakat. A Saudi, Gulf, or Egyptian Muslim or any other Muslim, even in Europe and America, collects zakat so the money can be spent on Palestinians who fill the conditions of zakat. But, thus far, Hamas has not received a single piaster from the Saudi government.

['Amarah] One last question. The Palestinian opposition wants to form a broad national front to abort the settlement between Israel and the PLO. Has Hamas and the other Palestinian factions worked out an agreement? Are you truly prepared to enter into effective participation in such a front?

[Al-Zahhar] [Words indistinct] the 10 factions outside [words indistinct]. I personally support the call to form a broad national Islamic front to tackle the inadequacies of self-rule, especially those with a negative impact on the national cause and Islamic sanctities and on the ?homeland) in general, provided that the formula is well-defined and not (?inconsistent) with our national cause or our religious creed and (?helps) the Palestinian street for the sake of the interests of the Palestinian people [words indistinct] and government in line with the rules I already pointed out.

Police Release Fatah Hawks Suspected of Murder

TA2106145594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] The Palestinian police released brothers 'Amr and Raja' Abu-Sittah, two members of the Fatah Hawks who are suspected in the murder over a year ago of Uri Megidish from the settlement of Gan Or. The two were arrested this morning and interrogated.

Abu-Samahdanah, Abu-Sittah Brothers Recruited After Arrest

TA2106182994 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel]

[Text] Sami Abu-Samahdanah, a leading Fatah official in the Gaza Strip, was arrested and later released for blocking the Netzarim junction because—so he claimed—shots were fired at him from the settlement of Netzarim. His takeover of the junction was recorded on film, Israel lodged a complaint, and Abu-Samahdanah was arrested by the Palestinian police. However, there is a follow-up to this story. Our Army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel reports:

[Begin Daniyel recording] Sami Abu-Samahdanah, a leading Fatah official in the Gaza Strip, wanted to make a show of muscle. He summoned television crews to the Netzarim junction to show everybody that he could take over the junction. The embarrassment was mutual, both for the Israelis and the Palestinian policemen. Abu-Samahdanah and his followers pulled out guns, said they were there to stay, and that they would not allow Jews to cross.

Nine of his followers were arrested yesterday, and last night Abu-Samahdanah himself was summoned to the Khan Yunus police station. It would seem, however, that the friendly attitude of the Palestinian policemen during the dispersal of the demonstration continued there as well. Abu-Samahdanah was released. Moreover, he was recruited to Muhammad Dahlan's security apparatus, his followers were stationed in a training camp, and the Abu-Sittah brothers—who were arrested on suspicion of having murdered the late Uri Magidish—will serve in the unarmed police. A Gaza-style solution. [end recording]

Prisoners in Israeli Jails End Hunger Strike

TA2106183694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Most of the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails have ended the hunger strike they called to protest the fact that the PLO leaders have neglected their cause. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky has learned from Prison Service sources that 600 prisoners in Junayd Prison in Samaria continue with their hunger strike.

Private TV Station Said Planned for Autonomy Area

TA2106140494 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 20 Jun 94 p 3

[Text] It has been learned from reliable sources that three Palestinian businessmen, together with Bassam Abu-Sharif, President Yasir Arafat's adviser, are currently studying a joint project for to set up a private television station in the autonomy area.

Visitors from Amman say that the four held a meeting last week at Queen 'Aliya Airport and agreed on the broad outlines of their project, including the fact that the project will be managed by Abu-Sharif. They also agreed to hold another meeting soon in order to put the final touches on the project.

Algeria

Dembri Continues U.S. Visit, Talks With Christopher

LD2106143894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] The Algerian-U.S. talks in Washington are continuing for the second day. Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri is expected to meet later today with a number of U.S. congressmen and to attend a meeting with U.S. academicians and correspondents which will be followed by a discussion.

Before that, the Algerian-U.S. talks have begun. The two countries' delegations were led, on the Algerian side, by Mohamed Salah Dembri and, on the U.S. side, by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. More details on this meeting from Abdelkader Djedid:

[Djedid] The meeting was an opportunity to dwell on the development of the situation in Algeria as well as a number of international topics. The foreign minister pointed out in a statement to APS that present Algerian policies, which fall within the framework of national dialogue and the installation of transitional institutions, were reviewed and explained at the meeting.

Mr. Dembri added that the U.S. secretary of state expressed satisfaction with the tangible results achieved so far, and the expectations from the current political program in accordance with the steps which are to be taken before the return to the electoral process, scheduled to take place within the next three years.

Replying to a question on the U.S. stand, which has repeatedly urged through official statements the need to broaden the basis of dialogue in Algeria, Mr. Dembri pointed out that he told his U.S. interlocutors that an open dialogue would need all parties and political personalities which wanted to take part in it in a tangible manner on the bases of the National Dialogue Conference.

As far as Algeria's economic reforms are concerned the foreign minister pointed out that there is great understanding for the steps which Algeria has taken so far and those expected to be taken, with international assistance, in order to give a fresh boost to the national economy.

Zeroual Receives Yemeni Envoy, Salih Message

LD2106134694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Head of State Liamine Zeroual today received Yahia Husayn al-Arshi, who conveyed to him a message from the Yemeni president, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The meeting was evaluated by Mihoub Mihoub, the presidency's official spokesman:

[Begin Mihoubi recording] His Excellency Liamine Zeroual, head of state, today received the Yemeni envoy and told him of Algeria's great concern over the development of the situation in fraternal Yemen. The head of state also told him that he is following the situation and reiterated to him our concern to work and exert concerted efforts to stop the fratricide and create suitable conditions to proceed with the dialogue in order to resolve pending problems through peaceful means. [end recording]

After his meeting with the head of state the Yemeni envoy made the following statement:

[Begin Arshi recording] I was happy to meet his excellency the head of state: I conveyed to him a message from His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic of Yemen.

Undoubtedly the meeting was a good opportunity [as heard]. I would like to reiterate my thanks and appreciation to his excellency the head of state for Algeria's principled and firm stance supporting Yemeni unity and the Yemeni internal situation. I have noticed the full support for the Yemeni people, and that the Algerian people are following the development of the situation in Yemen.

I would like to reassure our brothers in Algeria, who have supported the Yemeni revolution and everything else in the interests of the Yemeni and pan-Arab causes, that events in Yemen, which are regrettable, are within the framework of protecting Yemeni unity and the Yemeni people's national gains.

The Yemeni people are determined to endure any sacrifice to protect unity and achieve victory, and are determined to respond positively to any effort which falls within the framework of the sacrosanct national principles of the Yemeni people. [end recording]

Security Services Eliminate 10 Terrorists

LD2006221794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] On the security level, a statement from the security services today said that ten terrorists had been eliminated in various operations in the east and west of the country in the last two days. The communique adds that two other terrorists had been arrested during these operations during which two men of the security forces had been injured, while a third died of his injuries in the hospital.

Egypt

Interior Minister Views Islamist Activities

JN2106194494 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 22 Jun 94 p 7

[Interview with Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi by Nidal Mansur; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Mansur] Is the Muslim Brotherhood involved in terrorist activities?

[Al-Alfi] Charges have been brought against some of them and are being investigated.

[Mansur] Arab and Western intelligence services are said to have helped Egypt contain what you call fundamentalist and terror movements. Can you confirm this?

[Al-Alfi] There are no intelligence services working alongside us. However, we coordinate and cooperate through the international police or the Egyptian Foreign Ministry with some countries insofar as those who are wanted and those sentenced in their absence are concerned. [passage omitted]

[Mansur] The Muslim Brotherhood are excluded from the mainstream of national dialogue. Don't you think that, considering the group makes up quite a segment of the community, this detracts from the value of the dialogue?

[Al-Alfi] You say Muslim Brotherhood; are we a blasphemous brotherhood?

[Mansur] We are talking about a party with a political ideology.

[Al-Alfi] I am absolutely against the labels Muslim and non-Muslim; Egypt is an Islamic state where the sharia is the prime source for legislation. Do you regard millions as non-Muslim and restrict the adjective to those? This is unacceptable.

[Mansur] We are talking about a political party.

[Al-Alfi] These are not a party. The party is an organization described by the Constitution and law. If they want to be regarded as such, why not join the political party fold. We can engage in dialogue only legal and legitimate parties.

More to the point, it is wrong to found a political party on religious grounds, since all religions will then demand that they have their own parties.

[Mansur] You referred to Arab and Islamic repercussions on Islamic Egyptian groups. Have you documented proof to support your contention that terrorism in Egypt receives backing from Arab regimes or Arab Islamic groups?

[Al-Alfi] The matter is under investigation by the state prosecution. It does not serve our interests to name governments. However, obviously there are foreign hands involved.

[Mansur] You have hinted at the involvement of Sudan and Islamic groups in Algeria, but you ignored the role of certain Gulf states and Usamah Bin-Ladin, for example?

[Al-Alfi] I do not want to name names. The investigations are ongoing. It serves no one's interests for me to disclose our line of investigation. All facts will come to light when all the defendants stand trial in public.

[Mansur] How are the interests of the nations that you do not want to name served by such an involvement?

[Al-Alfi] We are the target of a ferocious onslaught waged not only by the misguided but also by vested interests who have joined forces with the former. They want to hurt Egypt as a superior economic force. By thus hurting Egypt they would intimidate the other Arab states. In any case, they will not succeed; the Egyptian people will spurn misleading ideas. [passage omitted]

[Mansur] The Islamists in Egypt maintain links with Afghan Islamists, who, in their turn, had links with the United Staters. Do you see American involvement there aiming to drag Egypt into sectarian conflicts so as to weaken your country?

[Al-Alfi] The United States supported Afghanistan not by virtue of the fact that it is an Islamic state, but did that within the context of an anti-communist effort. That support has now served its purpose. Let me here warn about what is happening in Bosnia and Herzegovina lest it be used to promote the same end.

[Mansur] Do you think Western powers, including the United States, have a stake in instability in Egypt?

[Al-Alfi] I will not name names. But there are those with an interest in a weakened Egypt on account of its strategic location, standing, and role. The aim also is to strike at tourism and lead the young section of Egyptian society into thinking tourism is a bad thing an anti-religious. Indeed, there are those who want to hurt us in any way possible and are using Islamists to advance that end.

Prominent al-Jihad Member Reportedly Arrested

NC2206081094 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Mustafa 'Abduh in Bani Suwayf]

[Text] The security organs in Bani Suwayf have arrested 'Ali Yahya Ahmad Abu-al-Hana, one of the prominent members of al-Jihad organization.

Reports have come in to Major General Muhammad Fahmi 'Azab, deputy of the Security Department, that the accused prepared a number of leaflets stirring the public to move. The leaflets were to be distributed to the residents of Ihnasiyah.

Brigadier General al-Siba'i Abu-al-Layl arrested the defendant carrying a locally-made gun and 17 bullets.

He was referred to the prosecution and Prosecution Chief 'Imad Sami ordered that he be jailed for 15 days pending interrogation.

Muslim Brotherhood Condemns Mashhad Bombing

LD2106124794 Tehran IRNA in English 1104 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Athens, June 21, IRNA—The Ikhwan al-Muslimun (Muslim Brotherhood), the Arab world's strongest Islamic movement, has denounced the Mashhad bomb attack as a "criminal act" and expressed its grief over the large number of pilgrims who fell martyrs to the cowardly and inhuman act.

"This is a criminal act. We are deeply distressed. We severely denounce it and express our condolences to the Iranian leadership and to the Iranian people," Ikhwan spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi told IRNA speaking by phone from Cairo Tuesday [21 June].

"We pray to allah to protect the Islamic lands from criminal acts and to bestow on them peace and security," he added.

At least 25 people were martyred and scores of others, including children, were injured in a terrorist bomb blast which ripped through the holy shrine of Imam Reza (peace be upon him) in Mashhad Monday.

Cairo 'Studying' Iranian Proposal To Improve Ties

PM2106152494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jun 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Cairo Studying Iranian Proposal To Form Committee To Develop Relations"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Cairo is currently studying a proposal submitted by Tehran to form a bilateral committee at experts level to hold regular meetings in both capitals within continued mechanisms to improve relations between the two countries. Well-informed sources in Cairo have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egypt and Iran have agreed to prepare a view of how to develop and improve bilateral relations to avert the eruption of any new disputes between them.

The sources said that Egypt told Iran of the necessity to stop its support for extremist Egyptian groups and not to shelter fugitive elements, especially after Pakistan has expelled these elements from its territory and in view of their intention to reside in Iran, according to information available to Egyptian security services.

The sources pointed out that Iran has expressed willingness to establish ties of security cooperation between the two countries in various security fields, including combating terrorism.

Libya

Opposition on Civil Disobedience in Bani Walid

PM2106152694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jun 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Opposition Meeting in Washington; Reports of Civil Disobedience in Bani Walid"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The National Assembly of the (opposition) National Front for the Salvation of Libya will hold a meeting in Washington before the end of July.

Muhammad Fa'iz Jibril, the Front's representative in Cairo, has emphasized that the meeting will discuss several proposals to tackle conditions in Libya in the light of the reports submitted by the Front's representatives inside and outside Libya.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Jibril pointed out that the Front will discuss the situation in the event that the international sanctions imposed on Libya are intensified as a result of the Libyan leadership's refusal to hand over the two Libyan Lockerbie suspects.

The Libyan oppositionist said that the internal situation will head the agenda of the Front's National Assembly. He pointed to the continuation of popular tension in the city of Bani Walid, stronghold of the "Warfallah" tribe, a pillar of President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's regime.

Jibril said that Bani Walid has long been experiencing a state of undeclared civil disobedience in the wake of the accusations al-Qadhdhafi leveled at a number of officers (55 officers) belonging to the Warfallah tribe, namely that they worked to recruit elements to work for the United States.

He added that Bani Walid is currently under a tight security siege for fear of the state of civil disobedience spreading to other areas.

Sudan

Former Prime Minister, Others Arrested in 'Plot'

EA2106205094 Khartoum SUNA in French 1620 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Jun (SUNA)—According to a high-level security source, the security authorities discovered a new plot against the country's security and stability. This plot was woven by the dissolved Ummah Party, together with the information service of a foreign country, and was directed by former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

The source added that several leaders of the dissolved Ummah Party were arrested for their involvement in the plot. These persons were Dr. Hammad 'Umar Baqadi, a member of Ummah's political bureau, Brigadier General retired 'Abd-al-Rahman Farah, who was responsible for security, and Sayf al-Din Sa'id, who was a member of Ummah's security committee.

The source added that Mr. al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was arrested on 20 June for his direct involvement in the plot.

Ummah Party Condemns al-Mahdi's Arrest

NC2106112194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—The Sudanese Ummah Party has condemned the regime's arrest of its leader al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and two of its prominent members, 'Abd-al-Rahman Farah 'Abd-al-Rahman and Professor Hammad Baqadi.

In a statement today, the Ummah Party described the arrest as a "drama" to divert people's attention from the numerous internal problems, particularly the aggravating living conditions.

The party said the arrest was part of the crackdown within the regime amid the extensive corruption ailing the state.

The party held the Sudanese authorities and the National Islamic Front responsible for the safety of the detainees and appealed to the international community and human rights organizations to put pressure on the regime to safeguard the detainees' lives.

Ummah Party Denies al-Mahdi Involvement

NC2106170094 London MBC Television in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] On the telephone to MBC today, the Sudanese Ummah Party, through former Interior Minister Mubarak Fadil al-Mahdi, denied the Sudanese government's accusations that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the party and former prime minister, was involved in a conspiracy against President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. The Sudanese authorities arrested al-Mahdi and two of his aides on suspicion that they and foreign intelligence agencies planned to overthrow the government.

[Begin Fadil recording] We believe the arrests were made because the regime is besieged politically, economically, and diplomatically. As the regime approaches the celebration of five years in office in 10 days, it feels the earth being shaken beneath it. It therefore decided to launch this attack on the opposition leadership and on the biggest political bloc in a futile attempt to obstruct the movement for change in Sudan. The accusations and their scenario were prepared in a naive way. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will emerge innocent, and we consider this to be a malicious political and security act. This is a political battle that we will wage against the regime until the end. [end recording]

Opposition Says 'No Reconciliation' With Regime

PM2206103194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Jun 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Al-Mirghani: No Reconciliation With al-Bashir Regime"]

[Excerpts] London, Cairo, AL-HAYAH—Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani has emphasized that "there will be no negotiation and no reconciliation with the regime" of President 'Umar al-Bashir. The secretary general of the Arab Lawyers' Federation and chairman of the Coordination Committee of the Sudanese opposition's National Democratic Grouping [NDG] has stated that Sudanese opposition radio will begin transmission next week "from somewhere outside the Arab homeland."

A statement issued by al-Mirghani's office yesterday, of which AL-HAYAH has received a copy, said that reports of a reconciliation dialogue between al-Bashir and al-Mirghani were "not true" and that "the DUP's principled position regarding the regime of the (National Islamic) Front has been the same since the first day legitimacy was violated, namely that there will be no negotiation and no reconciliation with the regime, a position the party's leader, officials, and masses still adhere to." [passage omitted]

In Cairo, Abu-'Isa [secretary general of the Arab Lawyers' Federation] said at a news conference held at the headquarters of the Arab Lawyers' Federation and attended by Sudanese parties that the Sudanese opposition radio "will next week begin transmission of its programs beamed to the Sudanese people inside and outside Sudan to expose the practices of the ruling Sudanese regime and work for its downfall."

He said that the transmission would be from a country which he declined to name, but he stressed that "it is not Egypt or any other Arab country."

Abu-'Isa said that the NDG "is now the target of internal and external plots aimed at splitting its ranks." He reaffirmed the NDG's support for "the Sudanese opposition's unity and its common objective of bringing down the ruling regime, restoring democracy, and stopping the war in the south."

Abu-'Isa denied issuing a statement criticizing the political parties which form the NDG and calling for its replacement with a progressive rally. He reaffirmed interest in the continuation of the NDG and in working through it. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Expresses Support for United Yemen

EA2106175094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has stressed the Sudanese Government and people's preference for a constitutionally legitimate government in Yemen, which calls for the preservation of Yemeni unity.

His excellency, while receiving the credentials of the Yemeni ambassador to Khartoum today at the Republican palace, said a strong and unified Yemen represents strength and support for the Arab homeland and the Islamic nation, which urgently requires efforts toward unity and cohesion. He emphasized that the sons of one Yemen in their wisdom and faith are capable of seeking the arbitration of the voice of reason, and of taking the interests of Yemen into consideration. He pointed out Sudan's desire to support and consolidate bilateral relations in all spheres, and to push it to a level where all efforts and capacities would be integrated in achieving the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples.

Yemen

Heavy Artillery Battles Continue Near Aden

Fighting Leaves 19 Dead

NC2106123794 Paris AFP in English 1215 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, June 21 (AFP)—Fighting between Yemen's rival armies left 16 southern soldiers dead and 71 wounded on Tuesday [21 June], while shelling of this port city killed three civilians and wounded 20, hospital officials said.

More than 1,100 northern soldiers and officers were killed or wounded as they tried to advance toward the southern stronghold on Sunday and Monday, a military spokesman said in remarks published here.

Heavy artillery battles continued to rage Tuesday on the front around Aden and the roar of multiple rocket launchers could be heard in the city.

Northern forces launched offensives on three fronts around Aden late Monday—at Abyan, 25 kilometres (16 miles) to the east, at Sabir, 20 kilometres (13 miles) and Bir Ahmad, 20 kilometres to the northeast.

They also hit Aden with shells and rockets, killing three civilians and wounding 19 in the northern suburbs near the frontline, hospital officials said.

Another person was wounded by a shell which landed in the city's central Crater district.

Shelling of Aden has killed 82 people and wounded 268 since Thursday, according the latest hospital toll.

Southern Source: Attacks 'More Savage'

EA2106203394 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source at the Defense Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Yemen"]

[Text] The forces of the ruling military regime today continued their desperate offensive attempts on all fronts, particularly in the direction of Aden Governorate. These forces also continued to shell, in a savage manner, residential quarters on the approaches to the capital, Aden. Our valiant Armed Forces confronted, and are still confronting with rare heroism and great steadfastness, all attempts by the forces of the ruling military regime to continue their defiance of the will of Arab and international society. Battles are still continuing between our defending forces and the forces of the (?corrupt) dictatorial regime in Sanaa and its arrogant adventurist head, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Two Rockets Reportedly Miss Targets

EA2106205594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Defense Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Yemen has stated that the forces of the ruling military regime in Sanaa this evening fired two surface-to- surface rockets in the direction of the capital, Aden, targeting its vital economic installations. The source said, in a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY, that our air defenses exploded one of them, while the other rocket fell into the sea.

12 Killed in Fighting Overnight

NC2206084294 Paris AFP in English 0758 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, June 22 (AFP)—Fighting between the rival Yemeni armies and overnight shelling of this southern port killed another dozen people and wounded around 40, most of them civilians, hospital officials said Wednesday [22 June].

Shells slammed into the Dar al-Amir suburb, which lies north of the city and just 10 kilometres (six miles) from the front, killing nine people and wounding 29, officials said.

Three dead soldiers and seven wounded were taken to hospitals here from Abyan, where southern forces have been resisting a northern offensive for the past two days.

Eight Katyusha rockets also hit the airport without causing damage on Wednesday as southern jets were taking off for raids on northern supply lines.

Two surface-to-surface missiles were fired at Aden on Tuesday evening, but one was intercepted by anti-aircraft fire while another landed in the sea.

President 'Ali Abdallah Salih's northern troops, and southern forces loyal to his rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid, have been locked in a civil war for almost two months.

Southern Delegation Accuses North of 'Evasion'

PM2106144494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jun 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Al-Ghaylan Accuses Northern Delegation of Evasion To Gain Time"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Ambassador 'Abd-al-Jalil al-Ghaylan, member of the South Yemen delegation, has accused the Sanaa delegation of coming to Cairo to waste the UN envoy's time, to gain time, and to give world public opinion the impression that it is responding to dialogue.

Al-Ghaylan commended AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, saying that it was right when it its front-page headline on the eve of the "Cairo dialogue" said "Collapse of Dialogue Between Two Parties," as though it is reading the Yemeni war like an open book.

Concerning what the southern delegation conveyed to the UN envoy, al-Ghaylan, who was Yemen's ambassador to Cairo when the war broke out, said: We stressed to Brahimi that the main mission is to discuss a cease-fire in compliance with Resolution 924, which stipulates two points: an immediate halt to the fighting and then engaging in negotiations without any conditions. When Brahimi called for dialogue he was seeking to achieve this.

He said: But the brothers in the north said that the current dispute is within the framework of the Arab Republic of Yemen and thus a solution should be within this framework, and that the military committee should be within the same framework that existed before the war, or if it is to be expanded, this expansion should be on a limited scale by accepting the participation of both Syria and Morocco. He said that he and the UN envoy believe that there is no point in its [the northern delegation's] presence, and in addition there is the fact that the northern delegation to Cairo makes it a condition that negotiations be held within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen.

Ambassador al-Ghaylan revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the head of the northern delegation submitted a memorandum from Foreign Minister Muhammad Basindwah containing these points, saying that the north is willing to respond to the Security Council resolution within the partisan coalition framework that existed before the war. That is, a solution should be within the framework of the Republic of Yemen. He adds: The southern delegation's reply in this context was that the delegation came to Cairo to sincerely work to secure an immediate halt to the fighting. But it seems that the north has no desire to bring about an end to the fighting, and that the aim of their agreement to attend the meeting is to waste Brahimi's time so that his report would be delayed.

Ambassador 'Abd-al-Jalil al-Ghaylan said that throughout his stay in Cairo Brahimi tried to persuade the north that the Arab Republic of Yemen question can be addressed at a later stage, and that this is not the time to address it, especially as he had called for the Cairo meeting to discuss two points: to draw up a mechanism to halt the fighting and to initiate a dialogue and negotiations. But the northern delegation did not listen to Brahimi and submitted Basindwah's memorandum to him.

Concluding his statement, al-Ghaylan said: The outcome of the Cairo meeting is that the northern delegation refused to negotiate the terms for a cease-fire and the southern delegation agreed to halt the fighting first and then engage in a dialogue and negotiations.

Southern Leaders Appeal to UN To Help End War

EA2106113494 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 2045 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, chairman of the Presidential Council; Brother 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Jifri, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council; Brother Anis Hasan Yahya, speaker of the National Assembly; and Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al- Attas, the prime minister, have addressed an appeal to the secretary general of the United Nations and to all regional and international organizations and bodies. The appeal says:

The Sanaa regime, as you know, has launched an attack on the people of the Democratic Republic of Yemen. It has destroyed villages, looted public and private property, and pillaged everything in the areas it has managed to occupy. Not even hospitals have escaped shelling and the theft of equipment which is subsequently dispatched to the north. The hospitals are then converted into weapons and ammunition depots. [Words indistinct] Ibn Khaldun Hospital donated by the fraternal State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The situation in all the occupied areas, particularly in the villages and the areas where battles have taken place, shows signs of a health disaster due to the northern forces' abandonment of their dead, who are left to rot. Sometimes they (?bury) them in an inhuman way by using tractors but the wind removes the sand covering them. Bodies are exposed causing a great deal of (?distress). The Sanaa regime, which is not concerned about its own citizens, alive or dead, cannot be concerned about our citizens and cannot be a regime [word indistinct] the destiny of our people. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Lakhdar Brahimi came as an envoy of the UN secretary general and we heard his initiatives with all seriousness. He did not need to waste his time with us. In fact he spent no more than 24 hours in the Democratic Republic of Yemen. He left the country after meeting the Brother President 'Ali Salim al- Bid, the brother prime minister, and his deputies in two meetings in which he found responsiveness to all his initiatives and proposals. He spent five days in Sanaa but was unable to convince the Sanaa regime to respond in a practical way to UN Security Council Resolution Number 924 or any other initiative. In Cairo he also spent two days trying to convince Sanaa about his initiative but to no avail, whereas he found from all of us responsiveness and serious [word indistinct]. [passage omitted]

In view of the foregoing, we appeal to the world, represented by the UN secretary general, international organizations, and all countries to move speedily with the aim of achieving the following objectives:

1. Stop the barbarous attacks on the residential quarters of Aden and the destruction of vital installations in which hundreds have been killed and wounded.

2. Put an end to this crazy war which has no justification whatsoever according to religion, law, or norms. The Sanaa regime is challenging the whole world by means of this war.

3. Effect a complete withdrawal from the territory of the Democratic Republic of Yemen and prevent any troop concentration on its borders.

4. Force this totalitarian regime to pay compensation for all the material and human losses it has inflicted on the people, territory, installations, and equipment of the Democratic Republic of Yemen. It was this regime which declared war and launched the aggression. It has continued its aggression, rejecting all international resolutions and appeals and challenging international legitimacy.

5. Provide urgent (?medical) treatment and assistance for our citizens in the areas occupied in the Governorates of Lahij, Abyan, and Shabwah; protect the citizens there from repressive measures, looting, and pillaging of their possessions and public property; and oversee and repair water and electricity services. It should be stressed that such assistance must not be provided through the Sanaa regime but under the direct supervision of the international organizations.

7. [number as heard] We ask the Arab and Muslim countries and the friendly countries of the world to recognize the Democratic Republic of Yemen as a sovereign and independent state and to accept its membership in all organizations and bodies—regional, Arab and international—since the Sanaa regime lost all lawful, constitutional, and international legitimacy after declaring war on our Republic and after rejecting all the resolutions and appeals from the international community.

The Sanaa regime cannot be trusted any more, even with the lives, possessions, and destiny of its own people in the north. How can we trust such a regime with our people in the Democratic Republic of Yemen? The Democratic Republic of Yemen is not a new thing, as it was, originally, a sovereign independent state. It attempted to set up a union with the Yemen Arab Republic neither committed itself to nor respected. It has now been confirmed that the Sanaa regime does not respect or uphold any local or international agreements and rules. Consequently it has lost all legitimacy and cannot make claims in the name of a previous unity, which it has itself destroyed, or under any other pretext.

The Sanaa regime is not the inheritor of any history or legacy or religion. It has not been mandated with this. Consequently the declaration of the Democratic Republic of Yemen is a return to an original position and not a new thing or an invention.

The Democratic Republic of Yemen is committed to the Arab League Charter and to the UN Charter as well as to all other international organizations. It is also committed to all legal agreements in force concluded during the period of the Yemeni Republic which apply to the territory and [word indistinct] of the Democratic Republic of Yemen. We pledge to preserve the interests of others in our country, and to cooperate and work seriously to achieve security and stability in the region and the world.

The international community bears a political and humanitarian responsibility vis-a-vis the situation in our country. We are confident that it will assume that responsibility to achieve and preserve the interests of people and their political, economic, social, and cultural rights and ensure security and stability in the region and the world.

UN Asked To Stop Plans for 'Genocide'

PM1706132694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jun 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Al-Dali Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Urge United Nations To Move Yemeni Crisis to Chapter VII"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali (southerner), head of the Yemeni Socialist Party External Relations Department, has urged the United Nations to move the crisis from Chapter VI to Chapter VII of the Security Council Charter in order to stop the genocide operation planned by Sanaa. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT al-Dali stressed that Sanaa has—thus far—not complied with the cease-fire resolution. Despite its promises to UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi and its talk about accepting the formation of a cease-fire committee, yesterday morning it shelled residential areas of Aden to terrorize the inhabitants.

He said that Sanaa is fully aware that it—and it is the one escalating the fighting, thus inviting the the Security Council to impose the toughest of sanctions—is not entitled to accuse the Arab states or Aden of exposing the region to the threats of a large-scale war, as Aden has until this moment been calling for peace and for halting the fighting.

On the results of his visit to the United States, he stressed Washington's and the United Nations' interest in a stable situation in Yemen, in the implementation of Resolution 924, and in giving the parties the opportunity to comply with it.

Former Southern Leader on Efforts To End Crisis

NC2206073794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0420 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Interview with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, former president of south Yemen, by Shadiyah Riyad; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Riyad] Mr. Muhammad, UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi has left for New York to submit a report to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali. Which side do you think he will blame for his mission's failure?

[Muhammad] First of all, I would like to thank Cairo radio for its concern and attention to the events in Yemen and its objective reporting of the news. I also wish to thank His Excellency President Husni Mubarak for his concern for Yemen's security and stability. I believe it is still possible to contain the Yemeni crisis and that Brahimi's role has not ended yet. I believe he should continue his good offices. He will need help from the Arab League, the United Nations, the Arabs, and other concerned parties. Brahimi's mission is a worthy one. We hope his efforts will prove successful.

[Riyad] Mr. Muhammad, we know that you are in touch with all Yemeni parties. You have said that the possibility of ending the crisis still exists. However, the issue has gone before the UN Security Council for a second time. Does this mean it has reached a new, critical stage?

[Muhammad] At first, we hoped that the crisis would be handled among the Yemeni leaders themselves. I said earlier that the crisis should have been handled in a domestic context. We also hoped that the cooperation of the brothers in the region and the Arab League would help to settle the conflict. Regrettably the situation escalated and became more complicated. Speaking on Cairo radio at the beginning of the crisis, I warned of this escalation and said it would produce infighting and secession. The crisis has moved from the domestic Yemeni sphere to an Arab one and finally to the international sphere. Nevertheless we still hope that the UN secretary general and the Security Council will help Yemen to contain the conflict, stop the bloodshed, and bring stability and security to the country.

[Riyad] Mr. Muhammad, your remarks make me wish to ask you about the roles played by the Arab League and the fraternal Arab countries that are really concerned with Yemeni stability. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has asserted that the Yemeni crisis is not the responsibility of the world community alone but of the Arab world as well. 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council, has said, however, that he wants the issue to remain in the hands of the Yemeni themselves. He remarked that if foreign intervention stops, the Yemenis will be able to solve their problems more easily through dialogue. He noted that there had been nine months of dialogue before military actions began.

[Muhammad] 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani expresses his own viewpoint. I actually agree with him that the crisis was a purely Yemeni affair at the beginning. I stressed this several times, emphasizing that a solution should be found at home by the Yemeni leaders themselves. It is now known, however, that the crisis has moved from the domestic sphere to a regional sphere, to the Arab League, and finally to the United Nations. We would like our brothers and friends to cooperate with the Yemeni leaders to contain the conflict, reach a cease-fire, and restore dialogue to spare the Yemeni people further losses and tragedies.

[Riyad] Mr. Muhammad, do you believe that if Lakhdar Brahimi returns to the region, his mission will succeed?

[Muhammad] We wish him success but this requires sincere cooperation from the warring parties. I want to declare over Cairo radio that the problem is political and the solution must be political. Guns and missiles must fall silent. I said this from the beginning and called for a political solution. I believe that all the parties must offer concessions to make a solution possible. In fact, I am in touch with all Yemeni parties. I and some sincere people are seeking to help the Yemeni leaders and brothers to contain the conflict. I have some proposals that I hope will succeed, with some assistance from good people in Yemen and our brothers and friends abroad.

[Riyad] Have you submitted these proposals?

[Muhammad] I am continuing my contacts and consultations with all the parties concerned with the Yemeni crisis.

[Riyad] Mr. Muhammad, former south Yemeni president, thank you.

[Muhammad] Thank you.

Al-'Attas Says No Dialogue Without Cease-Fire

PM2106113194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-'Attas Tells AL-HAYAH: Dialogue Is Impossible Before Cease-Fire and Disengagement of Forces"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY], has denied the statements made by Yemeni Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani about Gulf states' intervention in the Yemeni conflict and their supply of arms to Aden. Al-'Attas hailed the results of his visit to Saudi Arabia, concluded yesterday. He said: "On the two visits I recently made to Saudi Arabia I found the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and all the brother Saudi officials very understanding. I can say that on this visit I am more optimistic about the future." Praising the Saudi position, he said: "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stands with all its capabilities [willing] to help our people in their current plight." He expressed the southern leadership's readiness for dialogue, but after a cease-fire and the disengagement of forces. He affirmed his rejection of the revivial of the military committee formed before the war broke out.

He urged regional and international organizations "to quickly provide urgent humanitarian aid for the Yemeni people in the Aden Governorate and surrounding governorates which are suffering from an acute shortage of medical supplies, food, and services as a result of the continuous shelling by the north Yemeni forces."

He called on the military command in Sanaa to "submit to the resolutions of the international community and to international legitimacy by stopping the fighting and implementing Security Council resolution 924." He stressed the need for "international forces to separate the warring forces if Sanaa does not comply with the Security Council resolution." He reaffirmed the unity of the south Yemeni leadership, the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership, and their alliance with the patriotic forces in the south."

He said that "the Sanaa regime has, since the beginning of unity, tried to divide the southern leadership and the YSP leadership. It failed in the past and it will fail now and in the future." He noted in this connection that "perhaps there are some people or some individuals with special circumstances, and, because of these circumstances, they take certain stands with the Sanaa regime."

On the question of international recogntion of the DRY, al-'Attas said: "Our efforts are geared to stopping the war first. There is great sympathy with our efforts. That sympathy reflects recognition of the reality imposed by the circumstances of the war. After a cease-fire is achieved and consolidated we will turn to the international matter of recognition." He also spoke about the "sympathy of some Arab states with Sanaa." He said that "some very few states sympathize with the other side without knowing the real situation. Some of them perhaps take that attitude because of special circumstances relating to them, but one day they will know the truth and will take the position they should be taking."

He expressed "satisfaction" with the U.S. position on the Yemeni war. He said that "the U.S. position is balanced and does not at all condone this war. It is against this war and does not approve of the imposition of unity by force. We are in contact with the United States and are explaining our views continuously. We believe that the U.S. position is balanced and helps toward the achievement of results that would, first and foremost, stop this war and consolidate the cease-fire so that we could move to the next phase, which is dialogue concerning the political situation in Yemen. That cause also concerns us, and we are ready for that phase which should come after the cease-fire, its consolidation, the cessation of the war, and the disengagement of the warring forces. Then we would be able to have an open-minded dialogue on the political situation, solutions, and ways out. [no closing quotation mark] Referring to his meeting in Jeddah with [the UN secretary general's envoy] Lakhdar Brahimi last Thursday evening, he said: "We resumed discussion of his mission based on our meetings with him in al-Mukalla last week. Brahimi had conveyed to us a proposal from the brothers in Sanaa regarding a military committee to supervise the cease-fire, but that proposal referred to an old committee formed before the war. It is clear that the war torpedoed all the insitutions which existed before and created a new situation. That is why we expressed complete willingness to search for an appropriate mechanism for the consolidation of the cease-fire and the monitoring of any violations which might occur, and that is in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 924. We explained to brother Lakhdar Brahimi our position, which included the following points:

"1. Willingness to discuss, with whoever is assigned by Sanaa, this matter...of finding a mechanism for the observance and consolidation of the cease-fire, provided the meeting is held in Cairo.

"2. That team (to discuss the cease-fire) should be formed in the context of implementation of Security Council resolution 924.

"3. The meeting of representatives of the south and representatives of the north should be held under the chairmanship or the supervision of Brother Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general.

"4. The meeting to be held in Cairo should be preceded by an effective cease-fire.

"We gave brother Lakhdar Brahimi the names of our representatives for that meeting. They are: Brother Muhsin Muhammad Bin-Farid, Brother Qasim 'Abd-al-Rabb, and Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Bakri. We await the reply of the brothers in Sanaa."

He reaffirmed that the military committee was invalid at the present time. He said: "The old military committee is invalid. It was formed in certain circumstances before the war, and it was formed by an administrative decision and included brothers from some Arab states, that is from Jordan and Oman in addition to the U.S. and French military attaches, but the new developments and the war situation require something else."

He added: "We do not object to the old committee being part of the new committee to be formed, but the circle of participation must be enlarged to include the Arab League, the United Nations, and other states. We suggest participation of the rest of the Security Council members in the committee, and we suggest that a team of observers from states to be agreed on be attached to that committee. So, we are in favor of having this new committee, to be the new mechanism for the implementation of the Security Council resolution and to be attached to the representative of the UN secretary general."

Southern 'Parliament Speaker' on Fighting

JN2106155594 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 22 Jun 94 p 8

[Report on an interview with Anis Yahya, "speaker of the parliament of the Democratic Republic of Yemen" by 'Adil al-Jawjari in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] Anis Yahya, speaker of the parliament in the "Democratic Republic of Yemen" has accused Iran, Iraq, and Sudan of providing military assistance to the northern Yemeni forces.

In an exclusive interview with AL-BILAD, Yahya said Iran had recently concluded a deal with Sanaa to provide it with Sukhoi planes. The planes arrived aboard a Yemeni-flagged commercial ship, which unloaded its shipment in the port of al-Hudaydah.

Yahya also said Sanaa was receiving Sudanese air assistance. He noted that Iraqi military experts are doing their bit in overseeing battles from an operations room that was created in the southern region of Abyan, under the control of northern forces.

Anis Yahya denied reports about Saudi and Kuwaiti military support for the southern forces, saying: What has been rumored about a Saudi military buildup on the southern Yemeni border represents northern allegations and fabrications. He said the weapons that arrived during the battles to southern Yemen from Asian and east European nations are part of a previous program to arm the southern army.

On the Sudanese and Iraqi prisoners which Aden said it had captured during the battles with the northern forces, the speaker of the southern parliament said: We are keeping them in a safe place, and we will show them at the right time to the international envoy Lakhdar Brahimi or any other envoy from the Arab League or the Islamic Conference Organization. He said the southern forces have seven non-Yemeni officer and soldier prisoners, five of them Iraqis, one Eritrean, and one Sudanese. He said the prisoners made full confessions about the presence of Iraqi forces and Sudanese and Eritrean volunteers with the northern forces.

On the course of battles in Yemen and the possibility of the northern forces breaking into Aden, Yahya said: There are 50,000 southern fighters, supported by 30,000 tribal fighters to defend Aden by all means. There will be massacres if the northern troops enter Aden. He noted that more than 3,000 people have been either killed or injured in Aden alone since the battles erupted.

Anis Yahya visited Cairo heading a southern parliamentary delegation that includes four deputies as part of an Arab and international tour. A rumor spread within the circles of Yemenis living in Cairo that the speaker of the southern parliament fled to Cairo after the northern leadership had sanctioned his killing, along with 13 others of the leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party. Yahya replied to the rumors by saying: It is a northern rumor launched by the supporters of the northern General People's Congress who live in Cairo. I arrived in Cairo alone. My children are still living in the south. We are on a mission to expose the reasons that prompt Sanaa to continue the fighting.

[Al-Jawjari] In your opinion, what are the reasons?

[Yahya] Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the "northern" parliament, the ally of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, wants to control the oil sources and refineries in the south to establish a state that will dominate the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula, and that will enter into an alliance with Sudan and Iraq to form an axis that threatens the security of the Gulf countries and Egypt.

[Al-Jawjari] If such a plan is real and not the figment of imagination, then when did you discover it?

[Yahya] Iraq was the first country to support unity. It gave united Yemen financial and material assistance. We used to believe that they were doing this because of their Ba'thist ideology. But, we found out that Presidents Saddam and Salih had made a deal under which Saddam would support Yemeni unity and Salih the Iraqi entry into Kuwait. This is what took place.

[Al-Jawjari] This means that the present conflict in Yemen is one of the chapters of the Gulf crisis?

[Yahya] Yes. We are now reaping the fruits of the policy of hegemony and imposition of influence under the pretext of unity.

[Al-Jawjari] But many in the Arab homeland do not believe that such a plan exists?

[Yahya] And who thought Iraq would enter Kuwait? We are living in an era where secret schemes suddenly materialize.

[Al-Jawjari] President Salih says that the YSP leaders are the ones who violate the cease-fire decisions?

[Al-Jawjari] Our reply is simply to refer to facts. President Salih exploited the cease-fire to bring in reinforcements to the battlefronts from the tribes and the Presidential Guard totalling some 100,000 troops over the past weeks. The northern forces received weapons and spare parts from Iran, Iraq, and Sudan to upgrade the effiency of the war machine on all fronts. From our side, we are eager to cease fire to reoperate the water and power plants in Aden which faces an environmental disaster.

[Al-Jawjari] There are reports that a vessel from Pakistan has recently unloaded its cargo in the southern Al-Mukalla Port. The cargo comprises 40 Russian tanks and 100 missiles. The question is from where have these come and who paid for them?

[Yahya] I was in Cairo when this report was published. I can neither confirm nor deny it. However, what I can say is that there are arms deals we have contracted a while ago. As you know, weapons are not delivered on the day the contract is signed, but later. Thus, I can affirm that no one finances arms deals for the south.

[Al-Jawjari] President Salih invited you five times to hold a dialogue. Why did you turn down the invitations?

[Yahya] Because there were conditions attached. Sanaa proposed certain names, and the nature of the topics to be discussed was still a subject of dispute.

[Al-Jawjari] Will you please give us some details?

[Yahya] Sanaa rejects the participation of 13 members of the YSP Political Bureau, including 'Ali Salim al-Bid, al-'Attas, the defense minister, myself, and others, in the dialogue. This is an unacceptable condition. Sanaa also set a condition that the dialogue be held within the framework of unity and the so-called constitutional legitimacy. This is rejected too because we represent an independent state and we are not part of the Republic of Yemen.

[Al-Jawjari] Your decision to secede was not supported by any state.

[Yahya] This is a question of time, and most probably 12 Arab and non-Arab countries will support a decision to establish the Democratic Republic of Yemen when circumstances are appropriate.

[Al-Jawjari] Including the United States?

[Yahya] No comment.

[Al-Jawjari] And including the Gulf states, except Qatar?

[Yahya] No comment.

[Al-Jawjari] But Egypt voices its support for unity on condition that it is not imposed by force.

[Yahya] We, in the south, respect the role and the position of the Egyptian leadership.

[Al-Jawjari] Jordan also supports unity and calls for a cease- fire.

[Yahya] His Majesty King Husayn exerted extraordinary effort to prevent the conflict and infighting but the president and his allies have foiled Jordan's reconciliatory initiative. Jordanian military experts, who took part in the military committee, also say that it is the northern leaders who have aborted attempts to solve the problem.

[Al-Jawjari] You too aborted these efforts by insisting on the withdrawal of the northern forces from the south and the withdrawal of the southern forces from the north. This meant division.

[Yahya] We knew the dimensions of a plot to relocate certain units, which were outside the agreement and which could easily be struck if war erupted. This is what exactly happened when the 5th Infantry Brigade and the 3rd Brigade in 'Imran were destroyed and when the Ba Suhayb Brigade was besieged, after which war erupted.

[Al-Jawjari] What is the solution?

[Yahya] Cease-fire, disengagement of forces, and recognition of the independent southern state.

[Al-Jawjari] Sanaa's support for the secession seems to be impossible.

[Yahya] The continuation of unity in the previous way is also impossible.

Comments on Regional Effects of War

PM1706133094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jun 94 p 2

[Interview with Anis Yahya, "speaker of the South Yemen parliament," by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Abu-Husayn] Information indicates that the continuation of the Yemeni unity war could affect Red Sea security and threaten international navigation. Is Aden taking account of this?

[Yahya] Aden is complying with the cease-fire, and it is demanding day and night that the fighting be halted, because its continuation would inevitably affect Red Sea security and safety in the long term. Nevertheless, Aden has huge capabilities and an advanced naval force. But there is a need to coordinate efforts at the Arab and international levels to stop the war. Aden is standing fast and has the ability to stand fast for a long time. But the war's effects on neighboring states and the Arab region will be devastating.

[Abu-Husayn] But UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi spoke at the end of his tour of progress vis-a-vis the work of the committee supervising the cease-fire.

[Yahya] That is true. But we regret to say that Sanaa has denied Brahimi's statement and its acceptance of Aden's proposal regarding the work of that committee. Sanaa wants to revive the joint committee formed before the war which comprised Jordan, the Sultanate of Oman, and observers from the U.S. and French Embassies—which we do not accept, because there is fighting going on now and its dangers are great, and it needs more intervention from the United Nations by way of adopting a strong resolution to compel Sanaa to halt the fighting.

[Abu-Husayn] Let us ask you about statements made yesterday by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his agreement to hold a dialogue with southern leaders but in the framework of the Yemeni Constitution: Do you accept that?

[Yahya] Yes, we welcome dialogue with president 'Ali Salih but in the framework of the constitution of the Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Pledge and Accord Document, which we consider a constitution for all the institutions of our new state, "the Republic of Yemen" [Jumhuriyat al-Yaman] [sentence as published]. However, I doubt what President 'Ali Salih says, because he contradicts himself every five minutes here and there.

I think that Sanaa is trying to get around Security Council Resolution 924 lest a new resolution is adopted against it after Lakhdar Brahimi submits his report. Nevertheless, we demand that the Security Council be convened again as soon as possible to work to implement its resolution. [passage omitted]

S. Yemeni Official Says Recognition 'Not Far Off'

PM2006155694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jun 94 p 2

[Interview with South Yemen Presidential Council member 'Abd-al-Qawiyy Makkawi by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu-Husayn] To begin with, will the dialogue between you and the north lead to unity again, or are there new proposed formulas?

[Makkawi] Unity is not subservience and annexation by force of arms, nor is it the return of a branch to the origin, as they say. Unity is equality, justice, and parity between two regimes. Unity can only be forged amicably in order to promote love and brotherhood, not the use of arms. And that can only be achieved when intentions are sincere and trust between the parties consolidated. As for recognition of the democratic state, it will inevitably and without doubt come from all peace- and stability-loving states, and it is not far off.

I have learned from consultations conducted between officials and the Security Council states that these states are currently consulting among themselves in preparation for announcing their recognition. If the other side continues to try to capture and occupy Aden by force, it is impossible for it to achieve that. The time of occupation, hegemony, and colonization has gone forever. Our people will defy death and bravely defend their land and fight the invaders to the last drop of blood. We have seen women, children, and young men carrying guns to defend their territory.

It is also noted that we have named the new state the Democratic Republic of Yemen. We have not called it the Republic of South Yemen. And we have appointed a number of northerners in the government—which means that we have not ruled out the possibility of returning to unity, but on the basis of sound democratic foundations and a new formula based on reality.

[Abu-Husayn] If the fighting continues and the northern leadership backtracks on the dialogue, will you seek military assistance to rescue Aden?

[Makkawi] We do not want any foreign military intervention. We want to rely on ourselves, which is why we have formed a national defense council to take charge of the state of mobilization with a view to continuing the steadfastness and the defense. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] Russian President Boris Yeltsin said that a unified state could be stronger at the international level and better than partition. What is your opinion?

[Makkawi] I do not think so. I disagree with the Russian president. We are not against unity. We are still for unity and not against it, but in better conditions. It was President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih who imposed partition through the war he is currently waging. Unity is not annexation. Actually the unity, which lasted formally for four years, had not been completed. For example, the currency, ports, civil aviation, and education curricula were not unified, nor were the Armed Forces merged...and above all, the war came to destroy what was left of the unity and to perpetuate secession. [passage omitted]

Northern, Southern Officials Interviewed on Crisis

NC2106171794 London MBC Television in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has blamed the southern leadership for the failure of efforts to resolve the Yemeni crisis. Basindwah, who toured the MBC Television building in London today, said that Aden refused to hold a dialogue within the framework of Yemeni unity. Basindwah told our colleague Hasan Zaytuni that Sanaa refuses to make any concessions to end the crisis.

[Begin recording] [Basindwah] First of all, I would like to say that the failure of political efforts so far is the fault of the separatist rebels. We agreed to talk to a delegation representing them within the framework of the Republic of Yemen, but they insisted on conducting the talks as representatives of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, which is so far unrecognized by any country. We cannot recognize the existence of any state on Yemeni soil, other than the Republic of Yemen.

[Zaytuni] Should we conclude from this that Sanaa is not ready to hold a dialogue in the framework of, say, a confederation or federation between the south and north?

[Basindwah] No one has the right to impose on our people any form of unity other than the merger formula agreed upon since the unification of the country. I am puzzled by those who refuse to understand that constitutional legitimacy does not permit anyone to impose a formula for unity other than the existing one. [end recording] [passage omitted]

For his part, 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, the foreign minister of the government declared in south Yemen, has said that the visit to Washington by southern Yemeni officials is designed to brief U.S. and UN officials on the latest developments in the Yemeni crisis. Speaking to us by telephone, al-Asnaj blamed Sanaa for the continued fighting, referring to what he said was Sanaa's procrastination in implementing the cease-fire.

[Begin al-Asnaj recording] The visit [to the United States] by Prime Minister Haydar al-'Attas and myself is aimed at ensuring that the UN Security Council and UN member countries are briefed on the true situation in Yemen. We hope to initiate efforts leading to an end to the fighting in Yemen. No region is more vital and strategic to international community than that of the Arab peninsula and the Gulf.

The UN Security Council will decide on a course of action. We in the Democratic Republic of Yemen simply want to give a true picture of the situation, the perils involved, and the external forces encouraging the Sanaa regime to keep the war going and to destroy south Yemeni towns, villages, and institutions. [end recording]

Al-Bid Promotes Defense Minister, Chief of General Staff

EA2106212394 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, chairman of the Presidential Council, has issued Republican Decree No. 14 on the promotion of the two brothers, the defense minister and the chief of general staff. The decree provides for the promotion of brother Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, defense minister, to the rank of major general; and brother Colonel 'Umar 'Ali al-'Attas, the chief of general staff, to the rank of brigadier general. The decree comes into effect from the date of its issuance and its publication in the official gazette.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid also issued Republican Decree No. 13. It states: After taking cognizance of the document declaring the existence of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, and of the Constitution, and on the basis of the proposal of the prime minister and the defense minister, the Presidential Council decrees the following: 1) The appointment of Colonel 'Ali Qasim Salih as commander of the Navy; 2) the appointment of Colonel 'Abdallah Fadl Muqbil as commander of the Air Force and; 3) that this decree takes effect from the date of its issuance and publication in the official gazette.

Salih Visits Military Camp, Addresses Troops

JN2106183494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, today visited one of the camps of our Armed Forces. He was received by the brother commander of the camp and the officers.

During his visit, the brother president saw the progress of training and qualification programs at the camp and inspected the situation of the troops and NCO's. The troops expressed their happiness over the visit of the brother commander president, asserting their willingness to make sacrifices for the sake of the homeland and duty under all circumstances in defense of the will of the people to maintain unity and bolster their march and promote progress under democracy, which they chose as a way of life. They noted that there is nothing more precious than the homeland and its unity and that nothing deserves more precious sacrifices than maintaining unity.

The brother leader president spoke to the brother officers, NCO's, and soldiers, praising the enthusiasm, high morale, sincere national feelings, and overwhelming feelings of love for the homeland and loyalty to it, which are demonstrated by the brother members of the camp and all other sons of our Armed Forces.

He said this high national and moral spirit on the part of each individual in our valiant Armed Forces is a true embodiment of our just cause and of the noble principles and goals in which the sons of our Armed Forces believe and to which they are faithful. He noted that they do not fear death and do not neglect their duty under all circumstances. It was by this courageous national spirit that the heroes of our Armed Forces have championed the will of their people and foiled all schemes and plots against the homeland and its unity. They are today valiantly opposing the gang of apostasy and secession and defeating it all over Yemen. They are thus recording a new chapter of glory, heroism, and sacrifice for our people and our Armed Forces, which have always been faithful to the people and the homeland and have represented a bulwark that wards off all dangers and challenges.

The brother president noted the challenges imposed by the traitorous agents on the homeland and the seditions and sabotage they sought to ignite. He said the history of that criminal gang is replete with destruction and sabotage and that its conduct is marked by treason and plotting. Without this, this gang cannot live or have any existence. Our people have received nothing from this gang save death and destruction.

He added that the collusion, treason, and spite of this gang against the people and homeland have been exposed. This gang has a black history of oppression, suppression, and massacres by suppressing the people's freedoms and displacing qualified personnel of the sons of the homeland. Our people are today rising against this clique and are opposing its spite and trickery to maintain their unity, freedom, and democracy. They also seek to build their new society on the basis of justice, comprehensive development, and advanced local government that is founded on administrative and financial decentralization, respect for human rights, dignity, and property.

The brother leader president added that the heroic and great role which our Armed Force are playing in defending unity and constitutional legitimacy and in confronting those who have departed from that unity, legitimacy, and the free will our people demonstrated during the elections of the 27 April 1993, express our people's strong belief in and determination to safeguard the achievements and gains they made, thanks to their struggle, sacrifices, and efforts throughout the course of the Yemeni revolutions on 26 September and 14 October.

The brother president referred to the current criminal acts the rebel secessionist gang is committing against the people and homeland by targeting economic installations and civilian establishments and continuing its hostile, destructive policy, including firing Scud missiles against peaceful civilians, attacking the Aden refinery pipeline and the power generating station, and destroying electricity and water projects in the Lahij and

Abyan governorates, the latest of which was the treacherous aggression against civilians and the power generating station in the airport.

This gang is also cracking down on and torturing innocent citizens in the brave city of Aden, where the supporters of that gang are forcing children, the elderly, and women to carry arms, plunging them into the furnace of death without fear of God and undeterred by conscience, ethics, or humanism. He also stressed that this criminal gang will not escape justice because it has committed acts of crime against the people and homeland, referring to the many opportunities the leadership has offered to those who were misled to join the ranks of unity and legitimacy and not to obey orders issued to them by that gang.

He then explained that those who were misled could still benefit from the general amnesty law and join the ranks of unity and legitimacy in order to end the shedding of Yemeni blood. Therefore, he said, they should take advantage of that before it is too late and before they regret what they have done against their people and homeland, stressing that our people and the Armed Forces, which have managed to overcome many challenges and backed the will of revolution, liberation, and independence, will not relinquish unity and will face that new challenge that is imposed on the homeland's unity and future. Victory will come, God willing, for our faithful, patient, and militant people and for the brave Armed Forces.

In his speech, the brother president praised the large-scale national rallying by the masses of our people, chief among which are political parties and groups, popular and professional organizations, and all political and social forces, which have faced up to their national responsibility and which have demonstrated a patriotic stand.

He also said that the challenge imposed by the gang of apostasy and secession on the homeland and its unity represents a real test to responsible positions and the principled commitment to the national constants. The brother president praised the great role Yemeni women played in supporting the defense of unity and legitimacy. He said that the generous donations, including food and money, which were offered by every mother and sister in the Yemeni family, represented a strong moral support for the heroes of our brave Armed Forces, which are waging the military operations against the rebels who have abandoned legitimacy. He also hailed our people's genuineness, their love for their homeland, and their adherence to unity as a great goal that cannot be relinquished, adding and that the homeland and its unity are worthy of all sacrifices.

Sanaa 'Rebuilding' Socialist Party in North

PM1706112094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hani Naqshabandi: "Sanaa Rebuilds Socialist Party in North"]

[Text] Sanaa—High-ranking sources in the Socialist Party leadership in northern Yemeni governorates have said that the party is continuing the process of rebuilding its grassroots organizations right up to central committee level. But two points are still under discussion:

- Determining the the legal and political status of the new formation, whether it is "a unionist extension" of the party, whose leadership is in southern governorates (Aden and Hadhramaut) at present, or whether it is a new organization completely separate from the Socialist Party with its known shape and formations.
- Whether the new formation is going to rise structurally and organizationally from central committee level to political bureau level. This is in addition to the issue of selecting an alternative leadership to the leadership present in the south, whom Sanaa accuses of "secessionism and rebellion."

There is a heated debate among the party's members in Sanaa over their position toward 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the secretary general, and other leaders in general. Some middle-ranking cadres of northern origin are urging the speedy selection of an alternative leadership in a clear expression of the desire to seize the favorable opportunity to achieve personal ambitions. Meanwhile, high-ranking leaders of southern origin who happened to be in Sanaa when the war broke out are calling for patience.

It seems that a decision in this connection will be delayed for some time pending the outcome of the ongoing fighting between northern and southern forces, the attempts to secure a cease-fire, and the resumption of the dialogue between the two warring parties (the General People's Congress and Yemeni Reform Grouping, on one hand, and the Yemeni Socialist Party, on the other)

The situation will be determined in the light of an agreement on a new shape for unity. Then the new formation would become part of the process of rebuilding the party or a perpetuation of the secession between the north and the south, hence a separate party raising the banner of reachieving unity, thus becoming a tool in Sanaa's hand to shake the southern regime in the future.

This raises an important question about the position of numerous high-ranking leaders of southern origin who are in Sanaa at present and whether their current convictions "stem from the state of emergency" and could change when conditions change.

Deputy Premier, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Crisis

JN2006192494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi today received Arthur Hayden Hughes, the U.S. ambassador to our country. During the meeting, they reviewed the friendly bilateral ties and the means of promoting them. They also discussed the efforts currently under way to establish a cease-fire.

The ambassador reiterated the U.S. position that what is taking place in the Republic of Yemen must be handled in accordance with the provisions enshrined in UN Security Council Resolution 924, within the framework of the Republic of Yemen, and with the inalienable rights guaranteed to all members of the world body by the UN Charter, chief among which are the member states' rights to sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, as well as the inadmissibility of interference in their domestic affairs. He added that any handling of the situation in the Republic of Yemen outside this framework would prolong the conflict and hamper the urgent solutions required to achieve security and stability in the Republic of Yemen and the region at large.

For his part, Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi reiterated the Republic of Yemen's appreciation of U.S. efforts, noting their importance. He stressed the need for communication between the two countries to remove any misunderstanding in interpreting positions. He also underlined the need to keep away from anything that could hamper the joint efforts of the two countries in the interest of bilateral ties.

Deputy Prime Minister, Italian Ambassador Discuss Ties

JN1906135094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Brother 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba Jammal today received Italian Ambassador (Peter Mordoni). They discussed ties between the two friendly countries and prospects for expanding and developing them. They also reviewed developments in the Yemeni arena and exchanged views on several issues of mutual concern.

The brother deputy prime minister voiced appreciation for the principled positions adopted by the Italian Government toward the current conditions in our country and its support for the Republic of Yemen on the basis of the strong historical ties between the Yemeni and Italian peoples.

The meeting was attended by (Giovani Etelling), the Italian charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Al-Ahmar Meets With Iranian Ambassador

JN1906133194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] House of Representatives Speaker brother 'Abdallah Bin- Husayn al-Ahmar today received Iranian Ambassador in Sanaa brother Mohammad Jalal Firuz-Nia. They discussed parliamentary relations between the two fraternal countries. The House of Representatives speaker voiced his thanks to and appreciation for the Islamic Republic of Iran for supporting Yemen's unity, wishing relations between the two fraternal countries even greater development and prosperity.

The Iranian ambassador invited a Yemeni parliamentary delegation to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Iranian Majles.

French Parliamentary Delegation Arrives on Visit

JN1906140794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] A French parliamentary delegation headed by (Robert Jejacques), member of the Senate and deputy [words indistinct] of the Yemeni-French Friendship Society, has arrived on a working visit to our country. During their visit the delegation will meet with members of the House of Representatives, officials, and party and [word indistinct] leaders in our country.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the French parliamentary official said he regrets the events that have been taking place in our country since May. He said: We are leading this delegation [words indistinct] Yemeni unity under the first elected parliament.

He added: Everything must be done to preserve unity, which is necessary for Yemen and its progress and prosperity.

The parliamentary delegation is bringing with it a shipment of medicines contributed by French popular and humanitarian organizations and the Yemeni community in France.

Al-'Attar Meets With Delegation

JN1906134094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Acting Prime Minister brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al- 'Attar at noon today received (Robert Jejacques), member of the French Senate, and Mr. (Audois), secretary general of the Arab-French Friendship Society, who arrived in our country to express solidarity with the Yemeni people in facing the current circumstances.

During the meeting, they reviewed the current developments in Yemen and the efforts the institutions of legitimacy are making to preserve Yemeni unity. The French delegation voiced support for Yemeni unity as a basic factor in the region. The delegation members also voiced appreciation for the achievements the Yemeni people realized in the field of democracy by holding free elections on 27 April [1993].

The French delegation gave Dr. al-'Attar a copy of the statement issued by the French-Yemeni friendship group at the French Senate on the Yemeni situation. The statement stressed the group's support for Yemeni unity and democracy and emphasized the need to preserve it.

Brother Dr. al-'Attar briefed the French delegation on overall Yemeni developments and the true situation in our country as a result of the war imposed by [Yemeni] Socialist Party elements who rebelled against legitimacy with the aim of undermining both Yemeni unity and the gains achieved by the Yemeni people, including the democratic achievements that the rebellious elements are trying to abort. Al-'Attar asserted that the war that the various groups of the Yemeni people are waging against these elements basically aims to preserve unity and democracy.

Dr. al-'Attar expressed our country's gratitude and appreciation for the position of both the French-Yemeni Friendship Society and the friendly French people on Yemeni unity and democracy. He pointed out that the Yemeni people and their leadership appreciate this principled position which expresses the true relations of friendship and cooperation as well as the historic ties between both friendly countries. French Ambassador in Sanaa (Marcel Lupin) attended the meeting.

Al-Ahmar Receives Delegation

JN1906192394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, today received the French Senate delegation headed by (Robert Jejacques), member of the Senate and deputy chairman of the Yemeni-French Friendship Society, and the accompanying delegation currently on a visit to our country.

The speaker of the House of Representatives welcomed the friendly French delegation, expressing our country's appreciation for all French stands vis-a-vis our country, people, and unity on all official and popular levels, particularly the stands of the Senate and the Yemeni-French and Arab-French Friendship Societies.

The speaker of the House said: Our country will not forget the French friends' lofty stands, which support Yemeni unity, democracy, and the positive change that took place in our country after establishing Yemeni unity. He added that our country appreciates these stands and will reciprocate them in the future.

The French official reiterated the support of the Yemeni-French Friendship Society and the Arab-French Friendship Society for our Yemeni people to safeguard unity and democracy entrenched following the parliamentary elections held on 27 April 1993. He expressed the Friendship Societies' confidence in ending the crisis in our country as soon as possible in a way that will preserve Yemeni unity and democracy and save Yemen from internal conflicts. He noted that the Yemenis can resolve the crisis within Yemen and maintain Yemeni unity.

The meeting was attended by (Marcel Lupin), French Ambassador to our country, and brother Muhammad (?al-Qatim), member of the Yemeni- French Friendship Society.

Delegation Head Makes Statement

JN2006174094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] (Robert Jejacques), member of the French Senate and deputy chairman of the French-Yemeni Friendship Society, left Sanaa this afternoon after a two-day visit to our country. During the visit, he met with several House of Representatives and government officials for talks on relations between our country and the Republic of France, as well as developments in the Republic of Yemen.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the French senator clarified that he had met with the brother House of Representatives speaker and the acting prime minister in order to assess France's position toward developments in the Republic of Yemen and to stress the need not to harm Yemen's unity in light of Security Council Resolution No. 924.

He said [words indistinct] the government in France of the Yemeni Government's position [words indistinct). The French official added that his country continues to support unity, legitimacy, and democracy in Yemen as part of the position the French president declared when he visited the Republic of Yemen, adding that this position will continue even under the worst circumstances, as is the case these days.

(Robert Jejacques) also expressed his admiration for democracy in our country, which was adopted as a result of the elections on 27 April 1993. He also voiced his admiration for the Yemeni people's adherence to their unity, and said that the dialogues he held with Yemeni officials and citizens show great confidence, popular will, and support for the legitimate government, which expresses the citizens' feelings. He added that this will help in developing Yemen and that because of its unionist and democratic trend, Yemen will occupy a leading position in the Arab homeland.

The French senator added that he met with the health minister and reviewed with him spheres of cooperation between Yemen and France in the health arena, particularly the lists of medicines presented by France. He also praised efforts [word indistinct] process to receive and distribute these medicines in record time—efforts that will encourage the dispatch of more medicines.

He was seen off by 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Hamdani, deputy chairman of the Political and Foreign Relations Committee of the General People's Congress; 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Rawhani, member of the House of Representatives; and Muhammad (?al-Qasus), member of the Board of Directors of the Yemeni-French Friendship Society.

Opposition Attack on Intelligence Center Reported

NC1806165794 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] AL-MU'TAMAR paper reports in its issue yesterday, Friday, that an armed group from the Iraqi opposition forces attacked one of the regime's intelligence service centers in Baghdad. Sources told AL-MU'TAMAR that the attack took place on the night of 7 June and targeted the center, which is located opposite the central market building in al-Mansur city. This was the same center where British journalist Farzad Bazoft was detained in 1990.

Explosions in Education Ministry in Baghdad

NC2106163794 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Quoting its special sources inside Baghdad, the daily newspaper KURDISTAN NWAY reports that two powerful explosions occurred in the Education Ministry building and in al-Sina'ah quarter in the center of Baghdad on the night of 18 June. The damage caused by the two blasts is still unknown.

Opposition Official Criticizes U.S. Stand

NC2106111994 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 17 Jun 94 p 13

[Text] According to press reports, there was a meeting in the British capital three days ago between David Late [name as transliterated], an official in the U.S. Department of State, and officials from the London headquarters of Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] during which Late asked the UINC officials to close the London headquarters and move it to northern Iraq.

On this issue, Hani al-Fakiki, a prominent official in the UINC who did not attend the meeting because he was out of London, has made a statement to AL-SAFIR in which he expressed surprise at this U.S. demand, if the press reports are accurate. He said that the opening or closure of the UINC headquarters is an internal affair which only the organizations, parties, and political forces that are members of the UINC can decide upon.

Al-Fakiki said there is nothing new in the reported assertions by the U.S. official that the Baghdad regime should implement the UN resolutions, including Resolution 688, "because we and the Iraqi people have heard of this for two years ago and there is nothing new either in Late's statements or in his administration's stand."

Al-Fakiki added: "Events have confirmed that the U.S. administration and its Arab and non-Arab allies are only interested in the implementation of the UN resolutions that deal with the destruction of Iraq's military, economic, and political resources, but have no interest in human rights and freedoms nor any serious interest in implementing Resolution 688 or in putting an end to the Iraqi people's sufferings in the north, center, and south."

He said: "Our people are tired and have run out of patience with the sweet words, promises, and slogans because they see what is in fact happening, their silence over the crimes, and the normalization of ties, all of which mean an Arab and regional siege of the Iraqi opposition."

The Iraqi opposition figure stressed that "the U.S. administration and its Arab and non-Arab allies have complete knowledge, documented by photographs and films, of the massacres committed by the regime against Iraq's Arabs in the south and the marshlands. A few weeks ago British MP Emma Nicholson screened in the parliament some documentaries filmed by the coalition forces' aircraft showing the burning of villages, the drainage of the marshlands in the areas of al-Bashrah and al-'Amarah, the diversion of river courses, the expulsion of Arab tribes from their camps, the effects of all this on the environment, the destruction of livestock, and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of southern Arab tribesmen, who have been pushed toward the Iranian-Iraqi borders."

He added: "The U.S. administration also has no lack of information about the regime's violations of human rights and its crushing of the Iraqi people's national determination to coexist in a unified state. By this, I mean the use of poison gas in the north and south. The regime is making daily announcements on its official radio and in the government press of executions, amputations of arms and legs, and unfair sentences in Mosul, Baghdad, and al-Basrah."

Al-Fakiki went on to say: "The Kurds' sufferings and the siege imposed on them, as well as the attacks on UN officials and members of the international relief organizations, are not unknown to the U.S. administration."

He warned the Iraqi opposition forces that "despite the importance of dealing with international and regional factors and exploiting them to serve the Iraqi people, this should not give us political illusions. The West's oil interests and its priorities of reaching a peaceful settlement, guaranteeing Israel's security, and drawing up a map of a new Middle East, plus the calculations of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, are not necessarily compatible with human rights and freedoms in Iraq or with the notion of bringing down tyranny and its backers."

Concluding his statement, al-Fakiki said: "Bringing down repression and establishing a democratic alternative is a national task; to achieve it we must be self-reliant. It is a major historic task of great difficulty that goes beyond the toppling of this or that regime, especially in an oil-producing country such as Iraq, given its position and neighbors."

Exodus to Iranian Border Noted

LD1806200394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1518 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Tehran, 18 Jun—The human rights documentary center in Iraq today sent an urgent appeal to Max van der Stoel, special rapporteur of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Iraq, to halt a new collective exodus from various parts of Iraq.

In an urgent cable to Der Stoel, the Tehran based center said that the number of families who have arrived at the Hemet and Um Ni'aj border areas has reached 264 families, totalling 1,315 persons according to the latest census.

The center indicates that the current exodus started three months ago, but has witnessed a large increase in the number of immigrants during the last month.

The cable says that the reasons of the exodus are caused by the stepping up of oppressive measures by the Iraqi regime, such as arrests, executions, and because of the deteriorating life and health conditions of the immigrants, such as the outbreak of skin diseases and dysentery.

The cable says that the new wave of immigrants are from Baghdad, al-Hillah, Karbala', al-Basrah, al-Qurnah, al-Madinah, Misan, al- Mijar, al-Nasiriyah, al-Chebaich, and the marshes of Suk al-Shuyukh, al-Hammar, and al-Fuhud.

In another development, a communique issued here today by the supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] says that the engineers corps of the Iraqi regime's Army have completed the preliminary works in a new destructive project, which could be considered as the final phase in the so-called al-Anfal Project III, which was carried out early last year and which caused the draining of vast areas of southern Iraq's marshes.

The communique quotes sources in southern Iraq as saying that the new project consists of a canal starting at al-Maymunah district, southwest of al-'Amarah, toward the al-Islah region in the al- Nasiriyah governorate in southern Iraq, then west alongside the al-Nasiriyah marshes to meet the Euphrates, and then into the Shatt al-Arab.

The engineers corps of the Iraqi regime's Army are carrying out the new project, which is costing about 65 million Iraqi dinars, in cooperation with the Irrigation Ministry. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy: Saddam Breaking 'Imposed' Siege

JN2206105694 Baghdad INA in English 0810 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, June 22, INA—Iraq's permanent ambassador to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdun said the Iraqi diplomacy engineered by President Saddam Husayn had a prominent role in breaking basic chapters of the siege imposed on the country.

In an interview to AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper, published here today, Mr Hamdun added that the current position of the leadership and the recent visit by deputy premier, Tariq 'Aziz, to New York and his talks with the Security Council members was a solid one and placed Iraq's enemies and advocates of the continuity of the blockade in a difficult and critical corner, because it stripped them of the pretexts.

The Iraqi diplomat regarded the increase in number of the states supporting Iraq's cooperation with the Security Council and the progress made in implementing the resolutions and the lifting of the blockade as the best evidence on feasibility of the Iraqi stance and effectiveness of the Iraqi diplomacy.

Assessing the position inside the Security Council during the July discussions, Mr Hamdun further said "the continuity of the Iraqi cooperation with the U.N and its specialized bodies drew further hostile pretexts, thus the forthcoming discussions by the Security Council should largely reflect the positive state".

He stressed that the July discussions would be a step forward for lifting the blockade.

The U.S policy versus Iraq is governed by the complex of its traditional view to the Middle East and in the light of factors of the Arab-Israeli conflict in addition to the substantial issue, namely, the energy and its flow, Mr Hamdun said.

He confirmed that Iraq was an important country and its role within the frame of the future view could not be set aside by the decision-makers in the United States, and any arrangements to be discussed or implemented would remain inferior unless Iraq is playing its normal geopolitical role in the region.

Oil Minister Returns, Comments on OPEC Meeting

JN2106163494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad has returned to Baghdad after taking part in the OPEC Ministerial Council's conference held recently in the Austrian capital.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the minister said that participants in the conference have decided to retain until the end of this year the OPEC's current output ceiling of 24.5 million barrels per day.

He added that Iraq's participation in the conference has proved its positive role in serving the organization's goals of protecting the interests of the OPEC member states.

The minister also said he had held meetings with oil ministers on the sidelines of the conference to explain the impact of the economic blockade imposed on Iraq—a blockade which has prevented Iraq from investing its oil wealth. He added that during these meetings, he asserted that Iraq would return to the oil market as soon as the blockade is lifted, would remain a positive factor, and would exert every effort to maintain OPEC's interests.

Airports Ready for All Planes Once Embargo Ends

JN1906112394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA)—Yusuf Khudayyir al-Juburi, director general of the State Enterprise for Civil Aviation, has asserted that all Iraqi civilian airports will be ready to receive planes of all types and sizes once the unfair air embargo clamped on Iraq is lifted.

In a statement to INA, the director general of the State Enterprise said that Iraqi engineers and technicians have managed to rebuild all the installations and systems related to the reception of planes. The control equipment used to direct planes once they enter Iraqi airspace and until they land at Saddam International Airport, al-Basrah International Airport, Mosul Airport, or al-Muthanna Airport has also been rebuilt.

Al-Juburi went on to say that the reconstruction of Iraqi civilian airports has been completed with national expertise. Right now, Iraqi civilian airports match other airports in the world in terms of specifications and services.

Merchants Offer $2.275 Million for Food Imports

JN1806185594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1753 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jun (INA)—A number of Iraqi businessmen and industrialists have voluntarily contributed $2.275 million, equivalent to 1 billion Iraqi dinars, to finance some food imports, on condition that they are repaid in dollars after the unfair economic embargo is lifted.

This has been announced to INA by Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, who said these businessmen and industrialists are the first group of contributors, who will be followed by other groups.

He explained that this step expresses the readiness of Iraqi businessmen and industrialists to contribute to confronting the economic blockade, along with other segments of the society. It also comes in light of President Saddam Husayn's instructions that merchants be given a chance to voluntarily contribute to the importation of food.

Saddam Orders Increase in Benefits for Retirees

JN2006114294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has ordered an additional cost of living allowance for retirees who had served for 25 years or more and whose salaries and allocations now are less than 500 dinars.

The additional allowance amounts to 25 percent of the retiree's monthly salary and allocations and is effective as of 1 February 1994.

This came in a notice by the Presidential Office to the Finance Ministry and other competent parties.

Transport Minister Meets With Sudanese Counterpart

JN2106143094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—Iraqi and Sudanese officials began talks on transportation here this morning. The Iraqi side was headed by Transport and Communications Minister Ahmad Murtada Khalil and the Sudanese side was headed by Transport Minister 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Latif.

Dr. Ahmad Murtada delivered a speech in which he asserted that Iraq was eager to promote cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the areas of railways, ports, airports, and land and sea transportation.

For his part, 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Latif voiced the thanks and gratitude of the Sudanese leadership and people to Iraq for extending support in the areas of transportation, communications, and training and qualifying Sudanese cadres. He also referred to ties of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries and to the pan-Arab positions both countries adopt to foil plots concocted by the imperialists and reactionaries to harm our Arab nation.

The talks centered on cooperation between the two sides in the areas of railway networks, ports, roads, land and sea transportation, telecommunications system, the exchange of expertise, and training employees. [passage omitted]

Assembly Speaker Confers With Spanish Delegation

JN2106204594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has received a Spanish delegation, headed by Marcuri Fija [name as received], official at the Middle East Department of the Spanish Foreign Ministry.

They reviewed the parliamentary and political relations between Iraq and Spain and ways of promoting them.

The head of the Spanish delegation referred to the Spanish Government's recent move in the Security Council to lift the unjust blockade, stressing that his country supports Iraqi efforts to lift the blockade.

He also referred to current efforts to send a Spanish delegation to Iraq to acquaint itself with the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the continued unjust blockade and then to explain to the Spanish people the tragedies that the blockade has created.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih expressed the Iraqi people's thanks to Spain for the Spanish Government's positive positions toward Iraq. He also expressed hope that they will be further promoted to serve both countries' interests.

French Businessman Views Delegation's Mission

JN2206105194 Baghdad INA in English 0920 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, June 22, INA—Member of the visiting French businessmen delegation, Mr. Folon Stephan, affirmed the delegation's substantial mission was to furnish the French National Assembly with a clear picture of the Iraqi people's sufferings caused by the unjust blockade and thus to urge it reconsidering its erroneous policies towards Iraq .

The French businessman told AL-THAWRAH daily for today that the 28-firm delegation, of different specializations, was seeking to conclude and to renew their agreements with the Iraqi counter sides as well as to approach viewpoints between the Iraqi and French officials with the intent of restoring normal relations between the two countries.

The UN-imposed blockade on Iraq would soon be lifted and Iraq would regain its weight among world nations, Mr Folon anticipated . He concluded that world's major companies were looking forward to have contracts with Iraq anew, especially the French ones, which has found Iraq the friend who always meets its commitments.

PUK Attack Against IMP, KDP Forces Repelled

LD1806142494 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Sanandaj, Kurdistan Prov., June 18, IRNA—The Islamic Movement Party (IMP) and Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Iraq repelled an attack by Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) forces on their joint base in Asous region Friday, an IMP spokesman said here Saturday.

According to the spokesman after being repelled, the PUK forces had reported to Iraq's National Congress troops stationed in the buffer zone between the belligerent parties, that the IMP-KDP forces had intended to attack them.

Since the establishment of a ceasefire and deployment of Iraq's National Congress troops, the PUK forces have repeatedly violated the ceasefire under various pretexts, the spokesman added.

PUK holds the view that Badenban region in the north and Souran in the south of Kurdistan should be partitioned and Kurdistan be administered as favored by the PUK.

Rabin Appoints Peres To Head Talks With Syria

TA2106150094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jun 94 p A1

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres decided to call off a gathering of his supporters scheduled for today after Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin appointed him to head the negotiations with Syria, a very senior Labor figure stated yesterday.

According to this source, in the meeting the two men held yesterday Peres asserted that Rabin had largely blocked the Syrian channel to him. Peres told the prime minister that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had called off his visit to the region because he reached the conclusion that there had been no progress in the Syrian channel and that a mission under such circumstances would be doomed to failure. Peres stressed to Rabin that he could promote the negotiations and complete them within a few months.

Following these assertions, Rabin notified Peres of his decision to place him in charge of the negotiations with Syria. This decision paved the way to settling their dispute, and shortly afterward Peres informed the media that the gathering of his supporters had been canceled.

Peres said that he and Rabin were jointly steering the entire peace process, including the Syrian channel, and denied that he had voiced any complaints on the issue to Rabin. Nevertheless, a senior source associated with Peres confirmed that Rabin appointed the foreign minister to head the talks with Syria. However, the source noted, Rabin's move was not related to Peres' decision to call off the gathering of his supporters.

The conversation held by Rabin and Peres, some of which was attended by Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili, allayed the turmoil in the Labor Knesset faction. The meeting of the faction yesterday afternoon was very relaxed, and none of the participants attacked the prime minister and criticized what has been happening in the party. The brief session ended after the faction endorsed Knesset Member Eli Goldschmidt's proposal to put off a debate on postponing the implementation or abrogating the law on the direct election of the prime minister to a later date, until the situation in the party calmed down. [passage omitted]

Peres Rejects Syrian Golan, Settlements Proposal

TA2106184094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that Israel is not prepared to accept Syria's proposal to first cede the Golan Heights and uproot settlements there and only then to enter negotiations. Minister Peres noted that Israel is conducting talks with the Syrians on three levels: territory, the nature of peace, and security arrangements. The foreign minister stressed that had the Syrian president signed a peace treaty with Israel together with President al-Sadat, he would have received everything the Egyptian president did. Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports that Mr. Peres was speaking in a rally of Army veterans in Tel Aviv.

Rabinovich on Husayn's Comments, Talks With Syria

TA2206100794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador in the United States, said that a date and level has so far not been set for meetings between Israeli and Jordanian representatives. Responding to King Husayn's remarks that there would soon be overt meetings between the two countries, Ambassador Rabinovich said that although important progress has been made in the negotiations with Jordan, issues have to be defined precisely prior to overt meetings. The ambassador added that U.S. Secretary of State Christopher is planning to visit the region in July.

Ambassador Rabinovich said the focus in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations must be a direct dialogue between the sides. The ambassador remarks to our correspondent Ya'el Eylon at a meeting of Jewish leaders at the president's residence in Jerusalem.

Foreign Ministry's Savir on Husayn, Syria, al-Tibi

TA2206071394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan, on 22 June; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Friedman] In view of our close acquaintance with King Husayn, and the general view that for every step forward he makes, he immediately makes two steps back, would you suggest that Yitzhaq Rabin have a new suit made up for a meeting with Husayn in October?

[Savir] This government and its prime minister had their peace suits made up a long time ago. I disagree with you and think that what we see in almost all the tracks is two steps forward and one step back. There are those who are too influenced by the steps back. I think there has been a development in the Jordanian position, and it should be welcomed.

[Friedman] Nevertheless, Israeli journalists were not allowed into the monarch's Washington news conference yesterday. That is not something indicating an imminent breakthrough in relations between the two states.

[Savir] That is precisely the step backward. I watched the news conference where the king referred to anticipated meetings at a high level and Jordan's independence. I think that despite all the caution, we should see it as a positive development. What is interesting is that each time we see progress in a certain track—this time it was again in the Palestinian track, that is implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement—we later see progress in the other tracks. If previously in the peace process the lowest common denominator pulled everything down, now the highest common denominator pulls everybody forward. The train has left the station, and King Husayn does not want to miss it.

[Dan] Do you not see any impact from the Jordanian track on the negotiations with Syria? Do you believe the Syrian president is really being indulgent?

[Savir] I would not count on it. I think Husayn looks in the Palestinian direction and observes the fact that an economic agreement has been signed. The moves should be seen against the background of the economies in the region. I think that due to the Israeli-Palestinian economic accord, there is a Jordanian desire to join the various agreements, in order to make sure it is not being left out. The monarch apparently feels that al-Asad is progressing and is not necessarily asking for his opinion. 'Arafat also acted that way. If the king waits for others all the time, he will come out the loser on all sides.

[Friedman] We discussed Syria, and yesterday we read that Israel's Foreign Ministry has finally been brought into the negotiations with Syria after being exclusively the hands of the prime minister for months.

[Savir] That is incorrect because the foreign minister and his ministry were full partners to that issue as well, and I do not think there has been a change because there was no need for one.

[Dan] Please help us to understand the Ahmad al-Tibi issue. Why does it crop up now?

[Savir] I think it is coincidental. It cropped up a long time ago. At the outset when the PLO issue was new, we might have been mixed up, but the moment the contacts with the PLO became established, it was clear that Israel cannot conduct political negotiations via Israeli citizens as receivers of messages from the Arab side. Nobody has anything personal against al-Tibi.

[Dan] But he has been a partner to the contacts for a long time, therefore he says the whole thing is the outcome of a power struggle between the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry.

[Savir] I regret to disappoint al-Tibi, but the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry worked together throughout the Oslo talks, not with al-Tibi but with the PLO. It is true that later on he transferred a number of messages, and I can to a some extent understand his frustration, but I do not understand why as an Israeli citizen he takes it so much to heart. An Israeli citizen, whether Jew or Arab, cannot be an adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, but nobody plans to boycott him. Political contacts with the PLO are conducted with PLO officials.

[Friedman] Nevertheless, Yo'el Singer's legal opinion was issued on 17 October, 1993—eight months ago—and last month Shim'on Peres met with al-Tibi twice in his office and at his home.

[Dan] The timing is strange.

[Savir] I do not know what happened last month. It is true al-Tibi came with certain messages, and I think that due to the novelty of that track it is possible that it should not have happened in the past and that is no reason why it should happen in the future. I think that at present we have a clear partner on the Palestinian issue and it is also clear to us who is a PLO official and who is an Israeli.

Al-Tibi Denies Being PLO Representative

TA2106114794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi has denied that he is not a representative of the PLO or of its institutions. Al-Tibi told Qol Yisra'el that his activity was part of a mission to bring the Palestinian and Israeli peoples closer together. I have done so in the past, and will continue to do so in the future, he said.

'Sources' Say 'Arafat To Arrive First Week of Jul

TA2206052394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Israeli sources now say that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Jericho during the first week of July. The sources said 'Arafat will probably ask to meet with Prime Minister Rabin, but it is not clear whether such a meeting will take place. The security forces have decided to plan for 'Arafat's upcoming visit. Among proposals are the closing off of all roads in the Jordan Valley during the visit.

MK Member on Extending Palestinian Police in West Bank

TA2106183894 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Excerpt] Israel will propose that the PLO to extend the civilian activity of the Palestinian police force to the entire West Bank as part of the early empowerment to be discussed soon. A recommendation in this spirit is included in a study conducted by Major General Dani Rothschild. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] The next stage of the negotiations with the PLO will begin soon, and its highlight will be the early empowerment of Palestinians in the West Bank in five civilian spheres. The PLO has not yet made up its mind what and how much it wants from Israel.

Nabil Sha'th spoke in very general terms about this issue in his meeting with Amnon Shahaq two days ago.

The staff work in anticipation of the negotiations is coordinated by Maj. Gen. Rothschild, the coordinator of activities in the territories. We have learned that the staff work, conducted in conjunction with the General Staff's Planning Branch, includes a recommendation to enable a Palestinian police or another Palestinian policing force to operate in the entire West Bank.

Knesset Member Ori Or today confirmed the existence of such a recommendation.

[Or] I do not want to go into too much detail, but we are talking about one of the five main issues which will be transferred to the Palestinians, which is taxation. Although there is yet nothing definite, when we talk about taxation that means that somebody must enforce it. I think it is also in our best interest to agree that the body dealing with taxation should possess the tools and the ability to collect the money. This body will need a police force—we shall call it that for the sake of this argument—to enforce taxation.

[Rosen] The staff work, which will soon be submitted to the prime minister, includes several suggestions for cooperation between this police force and the Israel Police and security forces. [passage omitted] [end recording]

PLO Demands Release of Convicted Israeli Arabs

TA2206112494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jun 94 p 3

[Report by Gabi Brunn, Arye Kiesel, Roni Shaqed, and Yuval Peleg]

[Excerpts] Israel is negotiating the PLO demand to release 20 Israeli Arabs sentenced to life terms for terrorism. Among these prisoners are the murderers of the three soldiers killed in an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] encampment near Kibbutz Gil'ad in the attack later called "the night of the pitchforks." [passage omitted]

Also on the list of candidates for release is Muhammad Sarawi, a resident of the village of Ibtin near Haifa, who in 1987 hurled a grenade in Haifa's Nordau pedestrian mall, wounding 25 people, including the child Dan Me'ir, whose leg was amputated.

PLO representatives to talks with Israel are basing themselves on the precedent of the "Jibril deal" in 1985, when Israeli Arabs involved in terrorism were also freed. Senior politicians in Jerusalem tend to accept the demand to free the Israeli Arabs. Among them is at least one cabinet minister, as well as Foreign Ministry officials. As far as is known, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has still not made up his mind on the issue.

Knesset Member David Mena' yesterday cabled Rabin warning against releasing Israeli Arabs who murdered for nationalist motives. The Shin Bet is also opposed to the release of Israeli Arabs sentenced to life terms. This opposition was forcefully expressed in discussions held at the defense establishment and at government forums. Defense sources said that such a release would cause a sharp deterioration in the security situation and create a dangerous precedent.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT has nevertheless learned that parallel to the tendency to respond partially to the PLO demand on Israeli Arabs, the possibility of recommending pardoning Jews who murdered for nationalist reasons and who have already spent many years in prison has also been raised. The names of David Ben-Shimol and Yona Avrushmi have come up in this context.

Non-Palestinian Jordanians Allowed First-Ever Visit

TA2006182394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Today, for the first time ever, a group of Jordanian citizens who are not of Palestinian origin was allowed to cross into Israel. In coordination with the International Red Cross, the Jordanians crossed the border over the Allenby Bridge where they were given special entry visas for three days only. They came here to visit Jordanian relatives held in Israeli prisons. One of the visitors came to visit his cousin who is serving a 25-year sentence for his role in the terrorist attack on the Israeli Embassy in Singapore. [passage omitted]

UN, French Envoys Visit Jericho, Meet Palestinians

TA1806191094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Terje Larsen, the UN secretary general's special envoy, visited Jericho today and met with Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Brigadier General Isma'il al-Hajj. Larsen also spoke with a group of released prisoners in Jericho and heard their complaints about the problems they were encountering in the town.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a special envoy of French President Mitterrand also arrived in Jericho today. He invited Palestinian policemen to a seminar in France on criminal identification, forensic science, and drug interdiction.

The French envoy promised that Paris would allocate $50,000 for the Palestinian prisoners released by Israel. The envoy noted that Holland had contributed $25,000 to the same end.

Gur on Possibility of Joint Early Warning System

TA2006150994 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] "I can foresee the possibility of a joint intelligence early warning system for us and the Arab states," Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur said in an interview with the Defense Ministry employees' bulletin.

He said there is a possibility that satellites will provide us and the Arabs with an early warning capability.

"We suppose the Arabs have also learned a lesson from the Gulf war in all matters pertaining to defense on the home front," Gur said.

According to Gur, "the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will have to show us how to be a modern, professional, and thrifty army, and at the same time remain a people's army." He said defense needs and the numbers in recent drafts have not permitted the Army to call up all candidates for military service. Some will be sent for national service and will not be recruited to the Army.

Gur said that "if we learn that the PLO leadership is incapable of controlling most of the population and leading it to real coexistence, the basic question will crop up about the justification for the autonomy."

In reference to Iraq, Gur—a former chief of staff—said that despite the fact that the Iraqi Army was seriously beaten in the Gulf war, it still has over 30 army divisions and 400 aircraft. "Iraq also constitutes a serious nonconventional threat. There is no certainty that even after all the investigations inside Iraq we know about all they have," Gur said.

He also said that the Home Front Command is prepared to transfer allocation of gas masks to a civilian firm. He said "we are now organizing for continued allocation of the masks and if it becomes possible we will do it via a civilian business firm."

IDF Shoots 7 Nabulus Residents While Dispersing Riot

TA2206113694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] A firebomb was hurled a short time ago at an Israeli vehicle near the entrance to the Jewish settlement of Alfey Menashe. It exploded on the road, and there were no casualties or damage.

Seven Nabulus residents were shot and wounded by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] when riots were dispersed. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that hundreds of residents demonstrated in solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners on a hunger strike in the Janin jail. The IDF called on them to disperse and when disturbances started, the soldiers used force to disband them.

Realistic Approach to Jerusalem Issue Urged

TA1606163994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jun 94 p B1

[Commentary by Meron Benvenisti: "Jericho Is No Substitute"]

[Text] The right-wing agitation and the government's stammering have diverted the controversy over the Jerusalem issue to marginal matters. The establishment of a command aiming to stop 'Arafat, the calls for his assassination, the Jerusalem Municipality tax collectors' move against Orient House, as well as Shim'on Peres' stuttering, legislative initiatives aimed to curb PLO activities, and the invitation extended to King Husayn to pray on the Temple Mount--all these have served to divert attention from the main problem: The traditional Israeli stand on the Jerusalem issue does not correspond with the political reality that took root after the Declaration of Principles [DOP] was signed and the PLO was recognized.

In this sense, right-wing spokesmen are right in assailing the government for permitting the peace process to lead to concessions on the issue of Jerusalem, and the government cannot justify its stance by hiding behind hallowed formulas on the status of Israel's indivisible and nonnegotiable capital.

No matter how frequently government spokesmen declare their allegiance to the traditional stands, once the Palestinian national community was acknowledged and willingness to negotiate the implementation of its national objectives was voiced, that community and its collective link to Jerusalem became legitimate. The approximately 200,000 Palestinians who live in East Jerusalem (but are not Israeli citizens) have the right to feel an integral part of the Palestinian collective, and after the DOP, their right to organize their community life and to rally around their national symbols and authoritative institutions can no longer be denied.

Indeed, the traditional Israeli stand concerning the residents of East Jerusalem has been that the demarcation of the annexation borders severed the city's Arabs from the other West Bank residents, making them an inseparable part of the State of Israel. And yet, with the exception of Central Bureau of Statistics releases, in which East Jerusalem residents feature among the totals for Israeli Arabs (designated as "non-Jewish"), no one has ever considered East Jerusalem residents Israelis.

Israel annexed the territory of East Jerusalem but not its residents. They have remained aliens, deprived of basic civil rights, devoid of municipal services, and exposed to every kind of discrimination. Even the attempts to cultivate a minimum of coexistence expired with the onset of the intifadah, and Israeli Governments learned to accept the fact that East Jerusalemites cannot be separated from the great body of the West Bank population and that they must not cling to the illusion that East

Jerusalem can be wrenched away from its province and made into some sort of new "mini-Triangle."

It was the intifadah that established Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem—most notably Orient House—and every Israeli Government put up with their existence. The DOP imbued these institutions with a new significance, and it is that with which the Rabin government is trying to deal.

The government decided to differentiate between "governing institutions" and "voluntary institutions" dealing with social and community activities. This distinction, which is equal to the illusion of cutting East Jerusalem off from West Jerusalem, is only a fantasy and is unbecoming of people who grew up in Israel's pioneer days and know how voluntary institutions—such as the Histadrut labor federation—can become the cornerstone of the "nascent state's" voluntary governing system.

The truth is that the continued existence of Jewish voluntary institutions with "governing characteristics" is responsible for the legal experts' inability to propose legislation restricting the activity of the Palestinian institutions.

As long as the Jewish National Fund is situated in the western part of the city, its Palestinian parallel can hardly be banned without risking an appeal to the High Court of Justice that will discuss the petition on the basis of Israeli legislation and basic laws.

The attempts to harass the East Jerusalem Palestinian institutions will be as successful as the closure, which supposedly cut the city off from its surroundings, although it is no secret that anyone can enter it. Nonetheless, the government is tackling the institutions exactly as it did the closure: It would like to keep up appearances in order to discourage public debate.

It may be able to prevent Yasir 'Arafat from coming to Jerusalem, but it cannot move Arab Jerusalem to Jericho.

Israelis who believe in the unity of Jerusalem will also have to accept the continued existence of central Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem. They would do well to remember the postannexation years, when the Government of Israel made every possible effort—all of which failed—to move the Palestinian institutions to Ramallah.

East Jerusalem is the West Bank's economic, political, and social center, and it is the hub of the Palestinians' religious and national life.

This fact can be neither obfuscated nor forcibly changed. The sooner the Israelis accept this, the faster will the root of the problem be discussed. The debate will then focus on the search for new formulas to resolve the Jerusalem issue—formulas that will correspond to the new political situation and will not be based on illusions and wishful thinking.

Commentator on Affects of DPRK Issue on Israel

TA2106113294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jun 94 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "The Israeli Aspect of the Korean Crisis"]

[Text] In his testimony to Congress, the deputy director of the CIA warned that if North Korea comes out of the confrontation over the development of nuclear weapons with the upper hand, it would pose a threat to Israel and Europe. But this crisis has an Israeli angle no matter what happens. Even if we assume that a solution would be found to the crisis, and Pyongyang renounces nuclear weapons and meets the terms for outside supervision, for Israel it would mean that the time is approaching when the international community would insist that it join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). The club of states suspected of developing nuclear weapons will be reduced, and it is only natural that there will be an effort to cut it back even further prior to the treaty's renewal in 1995.

Israel is unlike North Korea in every way, but on that issue it might look like an obstacle to an improved world order, and that would make it more difficult for Israel to explain why the time has still not come to join the treaty when it is renewed next year.

The Korean crisis must teach Israel one other thing: That small states cannot cut themselves off from the NPT as they please even if they have good reasons for doing so. The current treaty says that each signatory state has the right to pull out after giving three-months notice of its intention, which is what North Korea did. Yet North Korea found that it had joined a club that includes ties to a Catholic marriage, which does not recognize divorce. An attempt to withdraw from the treaty for any reason could bring sanctions and even a military confrontation with the international community. There is a difference between somebody suspected of possessing nuclear weapons, but is not a signatory to the treaty, and somebody suspected of violating the treaty, the policy toward the latter being much tougher.

A North Korean victory in the current struggle would complicate matters greatly for the international community, but for Israel it could end with a direct threat. The threat does not come directly from North Korea. The immediate circle affected would be the Far East. North Korea's neighbors would find it hard to go on with normal business while its radical neighbor arms itself with nuclear weapons. In Japan, which has large quantities of plutonium, the demand to develop nuclear weapons despite its troubled past would swell. The same is true for South Korea and Taiwan. Regional stability would be undermined, something China also fears.

The second circle to be affected is made up of states like Iran and Iraq, and perhaps also Algeria in the future. If Washington fails in its stand off with Pyongyang, why should Tehran be put off developing nuclear weapons, and why should Saddam Husayn not go back to his old plan after sanctions are lifted on Iraq? It is only natural that Tehran and Baghdad have a direct interest in what is currently happening in the Korean peninsula. Washington therefore views the conflict as a confrontation over world order and not only as an attempt to restrain the North Korean regime.

The danger to Israel also derives from the possibility of Korean aid to others developing nuclear weapons and the sale of vital components. There can always be a negative precedent, especially when so much money is involved. There is no need to sell a nuclear bomb, it is sufficient merely to accelerate the development stage, and there is surely somebody prepared to pay huge amounts for that. North Korea has already made a major breakthrough in the field of surface-to-surface missiles (in Syria, Iran, and previously in Egypt) and we should not rule out the possibility that could also take place in the nuclear field.

There is an impression that none of the players, direct or indirect, in the Korean crisis want war. They all want to achieve their aims without using force, and this includes North Korea. South Korea is in a very sensitive position. If war breaks out it would be conducted on its soil. The capital Seoul is located some 32 km from the border. Some 16 million South Koreans live in the northern part of the country and if North Korean divisions invade there would be huge damage, and from their viewpoint, it does not matter if the North is finally defeated. Japan and China also do not want a military solution to the crisis.

South Korean intelligence says that the Pyongyang regime is expected to collapse sooner or later due to the economic crisis and the north's isolation from the international community. The Americans respond by saying: What would happen if North Korea manages to produce nuclear weapons before the downfall of its ruler? Will it then be possible to return the nuclear genie back into the bottle? It seems that U.S. intelligence nevertheless lacks complete information on what the North Koreans have already achieved. What they have is the report that the north has a certain quantity of plutonium and that tests have already been conducted on detonators for nuclear weapons.

From Washington's point of view, it is a race against time and its tactics toward the crisis are largely derived from that. The goal is to achieve the aims as soon as possible without sparking a general conflagration. It is clear that North Korea is trying to gain time thereby increasing the suspicion that it wants to be armed with nuclear weapons should war break out; or, it hopes to manage to satisfactorily hide such weapons before it is forced to sign the NPT and accept international supervision.

Article Views U.S. Nuclear Policy

TA2006163494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jun 94 p A11

[Article by Yiftah Shafir, a nonconventional weapons proliferation expert at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies: "A Chinese Slap in the Face of the Clinton Administration"]

[Text] Ten days ago the PRC conducted a nuclear test at the Lop Nor testing facility in northwest China. This was the second test conducted by the PRC in less than a year. The Chinese test was a slap in the face of President Clinton, who only recently retracted his resolute demands from the Chinese leaders with regard to arms exports and human rights.

The slap in the face is particularly stinging at this point in time when the United States is worried about North Korea developing a bomb, seeing that without the PRC's agreement and assistance it will be impossible to enforce any sanctions against North Korea and that nobody knows how to pressure North Korea to terminate its nuclear program except through sanctions.

The Chinese test is particularly hurtful because preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons is a cornerstone of the Clinton Administration's foreign policy. An integral part of this policy is the moratorium on nuclear tests and the efforts to bring about the signing of an international pact banning such tests in 1996.

The moratorium began back in November 1992, when the U.S. Congress forced a nine-month ban on nuclear tests on President Bush's administration. After those nine months, Congress permitted only 15 such tests to be conducted until 1996 and banned nuclear tests altogether afterward. It was President Bush who signed the ban, known as the "Hatfield Amendment." In January 1993, the ball was passed to Clinton, who initially extended it until September 1994.

The moratorium on nuclear testing was accompanied by a poignant argument between Congress and the U.S. military establishment. The argument used by advocates of nuclear testing was the need to maintain the high level of expertise for laboratory workers and arms developers. As for the tests themselves, it was decided to conduct three tests to check the reliability of the weapons and nine tests to increase the safety of existing weapons. Another proposal was a compromise to satisfy all sides and limited the tests to "small bombs" not exceeding one kiloton.

However, the opponents ultimately had the upper hand. They saw the ban as a trump card in the struggle to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. What the opponents saw was "deranged" countries, which at present include Iran and North Korea, with Pakistan, India, and Israel as potential candidates. Another reason for the ban was the ratification of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) scheduled to expire in 1995, at which point the countries will meet to discuss its extension and perhaps even to change some of its clauses. Tests would put the "nuclear" countries in an awkward position when urging other countries to evince restraint.

However, for the ban to have the desired effect all the nuclear countries have to maintain a united front. Such a front existed until the Chinese test last October. With Russia the problem is negligible: what could not be achieved in the days of the Soviet Union, can easily be attained from Yeltsin, who desperately needs all the U.S. support he can get.

With Britain the problem is even easier. Although the British nuclear establishment wants to go on with the tests and the Tory government supports it, the British have a "tiny" technical problem: they test their bombs in Nevada, and without U.S. permission they can hold no tests. Hence, a problem remains with the two "enfants terribles": France and China. France has for some time adopted an independent policy, inconsiderate of its allies' opinion (not to mention public opinion).

In spite of all the threats, the Chinese test last October did not upset the moratorium and Russia and France did not hold any further tests. However, there is no certainty that what happened eight months ago will recur today. The global moratorium remains a house of cards built on the principle of "not-the-first-to-test." Back when the moratorium was extended, Clinton ordered the labs "to maintain the ability to resume the testing." Yeltsin also ordered his labs to prepare two to four nuclear tests, and in recent months Russia has been leaning toward an independent policy unconnected to the United States. In France, Mitterrand will have a harder time resisting the pressure of the Army and the right-wing government to resume the tests.

The ball is now in Clinton's court. Adherence to the moratorium will enable him to come to the NPT deliberations next year with a clean record. Pressure on Russia may make Yeltsin rein in his nuclear establishment despite his indebtedness to the Army and his desperate need to keep employed those nuclear scientists who have not yet emigrated, and may also help keep France in line. Permission to resume the tests will undoubtedly enable the British to test their bombs. France will waste no time joining the party, and the price will be paid by the whole world in 1995.

King Continues Washington Visit, Holds Talks

Meets With Congressmen, Perry

JN2206084794 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn will hold summit talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House today. High on the talks, which will be attended by senior Jordanian and American officials, are Jordanian-U.S. ties and regional issues.

Earlier today, his majesty visited the Congress, and met separately with Speaker of the House of Representatives Thomas Foley, and the House Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Lee Hamilton, and 23 committee members.

The committee had asked for the meeting for a briefing from his majesty on the latest developments related to the Middle East peace process. Members of the House Committee said Jordanian-U.S. relations had developed after the Gulf war. They said they understood problems facing Jordan and many committee members said they would support Jordan in view of its positive stand toward the peace process and the democratic climate prevailing in the Kingdom.

His majesty told the committee that Jordan would act according to the agenda with Israel on the agreement two weeks ago on border demarcation, water, and security issues. His majesty said the agreement was progress towards peace, and added that Jordan will demand completion of other items on the agenda. His majesty told the House Committee it was premature to talk about the proposed confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians, and both peoples could choose the sort of relationship between them when the Palestinians gain their rights on their national soil.

Asked if Jordan would sign a peace treaty with Israel after the border and water issues are resolved, his majesty said Jordan would act according to the agenda, noting that Jordan is a sovereign country and an advocate of Arab coordination.

His majesty said a speedy peace treaty primarily depended on Israel's response to the requirements and conditions of peace. His majesty said lifting the Arab boycott against Israel depended largely on the results of negotiations ending the blockade of Jordanian goods bound for the occupied Palestinian lands, and a reconsideration of Israel's protectionist policy.

His majesty told the House Foreign Relations Committee that Islam is a religion of moderation, and fundamentalism was not restricted to Islam, but there were other extremist religious movements, and Islam should not be viewed through fundamentalism.

His majesty said Jordan would offer all possible support for the Palestinian administration in the autonomous areas.

Yesterday, his majesty met U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry following talks with Secretary of State Warren Christopher and other U.S. administration officials.

During their meetings, both sides have underlined the closeness of bilateral relations.

Holds News Conference

JN2206051094 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 21 Jun 94

[News conference by King Husayn with unidentified correspondents in Washington on 21 June—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] Good morning ladies and gentlemen. It is a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity to be with you today, and to see many old, and dear and familiar faces. I hope that I'll have the chance in the next few minutes to respond to any of your questions, and of course to have once again a frank, and open dialogue. On behalf of Nur and the Jordanian group with me, we would like also to express our delight at seeing you all at this hour.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, perhaps we could begin by, first of all, thanking you for spending the time with us, and as [words indistinct] a sense of, if you think now that there is enough progress made for Jordan to move forward, forging a peace treaty with Israel?

[Husayn] I believe in response [?to your comments] that we are on the verge of beginning the serious negotiations that, hopefully, will lead to the establishment of peace between us. As you will recall, we ratified the agenda following the great event that took place here in Washington on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and we have been waiting to commence serious negotiations on all aspects of the problems between us and Israel, and on all the subjects, topics mentioned in that agenda. I believe that a major step was taken when the meetings were held here (?last), and I believe it is a very constructive moment in the sense that we have decided to move to the area, and to commence negotiations there. I would like to say, once again, that we were fully convinced that nothing meaningful could have been achieved, or could be achieved unless it was preceded by serious [words indistinct] of all problems, and that the final achievement of all these efforts [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, would you tell us about your talks in Washington, and your expected meeting with the President tomorrow. What you have achieved, what do you have to achieve, actually, from your dialogue with the American administration?

[Husayn] As you would probably realize, I am here in the United States, in Washington in particular, following my visit to Rochester and to the Mayo clinic where I am pleased to say that I was given a clean bill of health. There was no evidence of cancer after two years from surgery and, therefore, hopefully my visits to Mayo will be on an annual basis from now on. But, I could not have been in the United States, and not be here in Washington, particularly at such an important and exciting time regarding developments in our region. So, I have had talks with the secretary of state yesterday, and I look forward to my meeting with the President, tomorrow, and in the meantime, there are other meetings scheduled. And whenever we meet, we meet to discuss all aspects of our bilateral relations and regional matters, and the cooperation that we hope will grow in the times ahead between our two countries.

[Correspondent] This is a question about coordination between the Arab parties to the peace process. You visited President al-Asad recently. Shortly after, there was progress on the Jordan-Israel track. But, there has been some criticism, (?of course) from Syria that Jordan is moving too fast. Could you say something about the coordination with Syria, and how the timing of the progress can go forward, how fast can Jordan move If Syria is not moving, and also on the question of Palestinian-Jordanian cooperation, when I was recently in Amman, I heard a word used often, frequently, even from Palestinians living on the East Bank, that I hadn't heard in a while, and the word was federation, and I heard it used quite frequently. I wonder if you could say something about when the issue of the future relationship between the Palestinians and the Jordanians has to be addressed again?

[Husayn] Well, to begin with, I think I'll address the second part of our question regarding the future relationship between Jordan and our Palestinian brothers on Palestinian soil. I believe that it is premature to speculate as to what form it will take. I am sure it will be a very close relationship, and I am sure that, in time when conditions are ripe, people under conditions of total freedom can work together to define that relationship. This hasn't happened so far. So, it is premature to really define the way these relations will be formulated. But, as far as your question regarding the peace process, we started at the same point in time, and, I believe that as far as Amman and Damascus are concerned, we have always been in touch, and in terms of matters relating to policy, this has been discussed time and again between me and the president of Syria, President al-Asad. So, my visit there was, naturally, within that context, and we were negotiating, they were negotiating there. I hope that, eventually, all these tracks will see active movement toward the objective of having a comprehensive peace in the region. But, as far as we are concerned, we will be as fast, or as slow as we are able to achieve real progress in resolving all the problems that are there on the agenda, and between us and Israel, and I hope that they will approach the coming negotiations with a constructive serious [word indistinct] for we will move rapidly. I can't set a time or.. I really don't know. But, I really hope that we will see rapid progress in that regard.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty on this question. You said that you discussed this matter with Mr. al-Asad. Does this mean that you discussed the agreement that you had with the Americans [word indistinct] and why are serious [words indistinct] Jordanians left them alone?

[Husayn] Well, I think that it seems to happen, we seem to find every now and then that someone complains about another leaving him alone, but this hasn't happened at the very level I was discussing. I believe that President al-Asad and I understand each other very very well. I know of his concern to see Syria move towards achieving the kind of peace that it can live with, and that he knows that we are doing the same. So, in the area of coordination I'd like to say there has never been the kind of coordination that will enable us to know exactly where any track is at any given movement. We have our own peculiar set of circumstances and problems that we try to address, and the Syrians have the same, as do the Lebanese, our brethren. Therefore, movement as far as we concerned is a question of a sovereign matter regarding Jordan itself and there is nothing to do nor is it tied to movement on other track. We hope that they will catch us, and may be they will overtake us in time if they so desire, but that is something which we can't control. Its something that they can control.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, [words indistinct] trip, was reported that you and President al-Asad suggested [word indistinct] unity Jordan and Syria. Will [words indistinct] Syrian idea [words indistinct]

[Husayn] No sir, we have always worked for complementarity and the closest possible cooperation between Jordan and Syria, and Lebanon, hopefully, and certainly with Egypt, and there was a meeting of a prime ministerial commission with Egypt that was revived again just a short while ago, and in the same context, there was going to be a meeting with Syria. So, this was postponed, but essentially this would have dealt with issues other than the political ones that usually are dealt with between me and my brother President al-Asad.

[Correspondent] Your highness, on your talks with the Americans. Did you make any headway on the request to resell [words indistinct] and also your request to purchase additional American military equipment, and lastly finalizing the arrangements for the land-based inspection system [words indistinct] naval blockade the Gulf of Aqaba?

[Husayn] I haven't had the chance to cover all these points with any detail, but we are, as Jordan is concerned looking at the moment that the present situation and the future, in terms of, hopefully, reorganization of our armed forces to meet the challenges and the demands of the coming period, both in terms of the defense of Jordan and also in terms of the role that we play on the international arena, particularly in the area of troops that are with the United Nations, and have beeen over a period of time. So we have ideas and plans, and we hope that we will be able discuss them with our friends to modernize and reorganize our armed forces in times ahead.

[Correspondent] So this time you'll be discussing mainly [words indistinct]?

[Husayn] I am not discussing anything in particular. I am just giving you an idea of where we are at the moment. We haven't formulated our plans totally, but obviously we discuss our requirements with our friends from time to time.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, [words indistinct].

[Husayn] This is not something that is one of [word indistinct] replace in the future, then we'll have to see what we replace them with and what we do with them. But this is something that I am not prepared to answer at this stage. It is something that we will be discussing with our friends in the times ahead.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty [word indistinct] the peace process. At this stage, do you think it is reversible, particularly in terms of circumstances, such as, for example, the Likud taking over the Israeli government. In such circumstances, do you think it could, the clock, be turned back to where the Middle East was three years ago?

[Husayn] I certainly hope not, and I believe that the process is irreversible and we are certainly committed to moving ahead towards the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace in that region. This is something that we feel we are close to, but it's [word indistinct] to require the best efforts of all concerned. We are looking forward to seeing some rapid progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track and we hope that this will be the case with the other tracks as well.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] that the Americans could be doing right now to further the peace process?

[Husayn] They have been involved with the process. They have sponsored the process. They have, I am sure, helped us very, very much indeed to get to this point and I hope that their involvement will continue in the times ahead.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, how do you foresee Jordan's relations with Israel after an agreement is signed? Do you think it will be [word indistinct] for Jordanians in terms of economic and [word indistinct]?

[Husayn] As far as that goes, I believe, obviously, that if we arrive at a state of peace, it would be a change of everything that we've had to live with and endure over many, many years. It will be to the benefit of people in both Jordan and in Israel and in the whole region, particularly if the circle is enlarged to include all involved in the conflict so far. As far as we're concerned, these coming negotiations, and why in place there are, as you know, within the areas of grave concern for us are territorial rights. [sentence as heard] The border between us and Israel is not clearly settled yet, in terms of an issue that is very, very important to us to regain our sovereignty over the areas that are occupied by Israel in southern Jordan at this stage. So the question of border demarcation and delineation is very, very important, not to create a new barrier, but in the context of movement towards peace. We hope that the Rift Valley, the valley itself, will become the valley of peace, the valley of opportunities for cooperation in many fields and many areas.

Another area, of course, is of importance to us, and that is the question of water and our rights and our share in that. Plus the environment, plus all the other subjects that have to be discussed. So what we are trying to do right now is hopefully approach a serious phase of negotiations to resolve all these problems. [Words indistinct] the quality of life of people, affect them in terms of their hopes and aspirations and the opportunities that will be the resultant fact of all these efforts which have been ongoing so far.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, you mentioned moving quickly between Jordan and Israel, and that there is no link between the Jordanian track and the other tracks. When you finish the negotiations on the agenda, would you be ready to sign, even if the other tracks are not progressing?

[Husayn] Our position on that is not linked to anything that may or may not happen on any other track. What I am saying is that what we are searching for is a comprehensive peace, and therefore one would obviously stress the need for progress on all tracks so that we achieve this comprehensive peace. For example, in regard to Jordanian-Palestinian relations in times ahead, we in Jordan will continue to respond to any demand for help in any particular area, but, let us say we take the area of economic dimensions, the economy as between us and our Palestinian brethren and Israel. If coordination has not achieved very much, then obviously we have to negotiate this subject as Jordan, together with the Palestinians, and the Israelis in the times ahead. In other words there are bilateral negotiations and trilateral negotiations, and there are going to be quadrilateral negotiations with regard to Egypt, for example, in terms of the return of Palestinians to the occupied territories.

You can't resolve the question of water without, hopefully, seeing progress everywhere. But, the point is our wishes for progress to be achieved on all tracks. However, we are a sovereign country, we are dealing with our own problems, we started at the same point and we are trying to see what we can achieve. Whether we will or not does not depend on any other factor, other than Israel's coming through with the same kind of spirit and our mutually reaching a satisfactory conclusion to the differences between us as settling all the items of the agenda.

[Correspondent] Will we see a peace treaty this year, Your Majesty?

[Husayn] I can't tell you that, I can't tell you that.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, you were quoted yesterday as saying that you would agree to talk to Israeli leaders, as you have indicated in the past. Today, they are responding, saying they would like to meet with you. Do you foresee that this peace process, the talks beginning next month, would lead to or conclude in some, finally, a public meeting between you and Israeli leaders?

[Husayn] Whenever the time is ripe, whenever there is a need to, I welcome that, there is no problem with that at all.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, can you confirm for us whether you saw the Israeli leadership, please?

[Husayn] I am not going to comment on press speculation in that regard, or media speculation, one way or the other. I think you have had their answer, so this is my answer, too.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, [words indistinct] concerning the Syrian criticism, directly or indirectly, after ...

[Husayn, interrupting] Let me ask a question myself, to all of you: Is Jordan expected to be the last to ratify a peace treaty?

[Correspondent] I thought everybody would sign it within the same timeframe?

[Husayn] Inshallah, inshallah, that is what we hope will happen. But to get there we have to begin negotiating and this is precisely what we are doing. So I hope that these serious negotiations will achieve some results.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, will you explain please, and shed some light, what made you feel that this was the right moment to go forward on the road that eventually will end in a peace?

[Husayn] That was not our doing. But, I think [word indistinct] suggested since the outset that we have to translate the items on the agenda into realities by negotiating over them, and that a peace treaty is a crowning achievement of resolving all the problems. So we have been waiting, but when the Israelis were ready to begin I think we have seen some progress. It was not anything that was a result of our hesitation or an attempt to avoid the issue.

[Correspondent] I mean, were there any historical moments you thought that this is the right moment to go for?

[Husayn] Not at all, sir. We weren't playing tactics. We were waiting and ready, and the moment has arrived, so we were beginning to (?work out).

[Correspondent] Your Majesty: You mentioned something about the water rights which the Israelis have been denying, refusing to discuss water rights before, and finally they did this Washington [word indistinct]. Did this Washington [words indistinct] contribute to making progress on the Jordanian track? You went back to the beginning of the establishment of Israel. From 1948 to 1951, Israel received 600,000 immigrants and this caused a serious water shortage in Israel. As a result, Israel started to divert Jordan River in the whole sequence of events that (?led to the) June 1967 War. Are you concerned now about the wave of immigration coming from Russia, that [word indistinct] more than 430,000 already arrived on the ground in Israel? This is, apparently, causing a serious threat and shortage of water in Israel itself. Are you concerned that you'll be... [pauses] do you see that this one is one of the reasons for, maybe, the Israeli moves toward peace, and do you see a new threat on the Arab waters because of the new immigration?

[Husayn] I hope that the question of water resources available in the region will be resolved to the satisfaction of all. But, on the other hand, I would like to say that it's my feeling that before too long even all these resources that are available will not be enough to meet the demands and the needs of all. So, water is a very, very important subject, an important need for everyone in the region. And, that again is a reason for us to move ahead, because amongst the many reasons, we have to resolve this problem that could be very explosive unless resolved, and cannot be resolved except in the context of peace.

[Correspondent] The Israelis, Your Majesty, are suggesting that as the [word indistinct] under the Johnston Plan, I think, they have indeed received more water than they were allotted to, or that they've stolen, if you want to use the word, more water. Has that been communicated to you, that there is going to be an arrangement under which large quantities of water are restored to Jordan?

[Husayn] I certainly hope that we will receive our share and that this will be defined in the coming negotiations, sir.

[Correspondent] But, sir, If I can just ask you another question. I know you can't speak for the Syrian leadership. But from your talks in Damascus, do you have any sense of what the major problem is now for the Syrians. There seems to be, as you know, Secretary Christopher has put off his trip to the region because he was not convinced that it will produce progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. Do you have any thoughts about what may be required either from the Israelis or from the Syrians to try to produce progress?

[Husayn] My impression is that progress was made, and that certainly, reflects my impression of the Syrian position that they would like to get on with it as rapidly as possible and arrive at a satisfactory conclusion to these talks. I think that positions were set out, and they probably are starting positions at this stage, but I hope that on both sides there will be an effort to achieve progress, and I hope that we will see that happening in the time ahead. It is not for me to comment on when the secretary will visit, but I think that further progress is expected before too long.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, on the question of Jerusalem, it seems no one is talking about Jerusalem any more. Is Jerusalem going to be just a Palestinian-Israeli issue, especially that the Palestinians will not have any leverage on....?

[Husayn, interrupting] Not in the least, not in the least. The agenda [words indistinct] that. I don't know, maybe you have not been hearing us. I think that we've been talking about Jerusalem continuously and our feelings for Jerusalem have never changed, will never change. And, again, the idea that we are trying to put across is that we should, somehow, find a way by which we can address the problem in terms of the holy sites, holy to the followers of the three great monotheistic religions, the three great Ibrahmic religions, to remove those away from the realm of politics and politicking. And we recognize no sovereignty over these holy places except to God.

We hope that in a state of peace, these places will come to symbolize peace between the followers of the three great religions. And, as far as the rest is concerned, I believe 242 applies to that side of the equation, and I am sure that future negotiations, we understand, will deal with them.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, permit me to ask about Yemen, mainly. It is another subject, but still you have a position and your position is very well known concerning Yemen. Now we have reached this phase of problem where there is actually war and there is no cease-fire. What is the Jordanian position, what is your position, Your Majesty, on this problem?

[Husayn] Sir, our position is one of deep regret over seeing the situation in Yemen develop to the point of war and military action. We regret the losses, those who have been lost in terms of the ongoing struggle and those who have suffered and those who continue to face a threat within Yemen. We had tried our utmost to help all Yemenis achieve an understanding of how the state of Yemen will be formulated in the future. And they have reached an agreement, which they ratified, representatives of all schools of political thought and representatives of all the people of Yemen, in Amman. Unfortunately, it did not last long and the situation has erupted. Naturally, it would be our wish and hope that the unity of Yemen could be maintained. But I am very concerned and very, very worried that even that might be in jeopardy at this stage. I hope, somehow, that the situation will improve and that what is in the interest of Yemen will be in the forefront of the thoughts of all concerned.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, you've said that, getting back to the face-to-face meeting with the Israeli leadership, you've said that [word indistinct] must wait [words indistinct] until the time is right. The Israeli leadership has been using similar language. What is the sequence of provisional agreements, on various issues, that must be achieved before time is right for a face-to-face meeting, or is it necessary to wait until all agreements are (?agreed)...?

[Husayn, interrupting] Sir, let's put it in another way. I think that it's fair to describe the situation in the following way. We are negotiating. Negotiations are taking place. Negotiations are going to take place. So, whether they are at my level and the prime minister, or at the level of our representatives at this stage, one and the same thing. The question of exactly when we will meet, hopefully, we'll see some progress before that happens. But the fact that we haven't met publicly does not mean that the efforts of our colleagues and those who represent both countries are not a reflection of the spirit and the desire to negotiate between the two, as is happening.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, regarding the venue for such a conference, such a meeting within the area, will it also be in the region [words indistinct]?

[Husayn] It could be. Why not?

[Correspondent] It could be in the region?

[Husayn] It could be, I suppose.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, just to clear up one thing. Are you drawing a distinction between the starting of negotiations with the Israelis and the signing of the agreement, because sometimes we are putting them together?

[Husayn] I think, sir, that this is a problem in the minds of many. I mean, obviously, it is a very important moment and we are starting serious negotiations at this stage. Hopefully with good will and with a determination to achieve progress and resolve all problems. That doesn't mean we have ratified peace yet. But when we reach satisfaction on all the problems, when we've resolved all these problems, then, obviously, we will be at the state where the crowning achievement, as I've said time and again, is a peace treaty.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, have you detected any flexibility in the American position on sanctions on Iraq? Is there any change in the American position?

[Husayn] I do not care to comment on that, sir. I haven't... [pauses] anything that I would say would be out of place, I think.

[Correspondent] Could I just follow that up, Your Majesty, on Iraq. There is an agreement between Jordan, an economic agreement between Jordan and the PLO to provide oil to the Gaza and Jericho, the self-rule areas. Jordan gets about 60,000 barrels a day of oil from Iraq. Presumably, if Jordan is going to provide oil to those areas, it is going to be Iraqi oil, and it is going to come from the oil that you need for your country. Doesn't that create an incentive for you, and indeed for the West in general, to relook at the sanctions, and perhaps provide some relief for the Iraqis to, at least, provide some oil, or greater quantities of oil.

[Jordanian Prime Minister al-Majali, whispering to King Husayn, in Arabic, after Husayn queries him] There is an agreement between Israel and Egypt, and we have nothing to do with that.

[Husayn] We have not yet concluded an agreement, sir, with our Palestinian brethren to provide oil from Jordan. And as you do suggest, I was just asking if there is anything new that has happened while I was away. But, I don't think that anything has, in that regard. But, regarding Iraq, I continue to feel very, very strongly with the people of Iraq. And I hope that the rest of the world will share with us these feelings that the impact, the suffering of the people of Iraq is really out of proportion to all (?reason). Regardless of who is responsible, regardless of who caused it, and regardless of [as heard], we are interested obviously in the humanitarian dimension; and Iraq is an important element in our region. So, let us hope that this nightmare somehow comes to an end before too long.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, (?could you say something about) the demarcation of borders between you and Israel? [Words indistinct] does Jordan want this to be the first thing on the agenda? Do you think it will be a problem with the Israelis, because they always reject...

[Husayn, interrupting] I hope that it will not be a problem. And I hope that... [pauses] I think that we are going to meet face to face. I am sure the Americans will be present and most welcome at this stage. And as far as we are concerned, obviously the question of sovereignty over our territories is one that has to be resolved. And as I have said earlier, by that, I don't mean that we should create a new barrier between us. But, we have to recover our territory, we have to recover our water rights. Let me put it another way. To those who ask so many questions about Jordan and Jordan's actions and why, I think no country in the Arab world has done more for the Palestinian cause, or identified more with the suffering of the Palestinian people, or their hopes and aspirations of regaining their rights on their soil. No Arab country has done more for Arab unity, and cooperation, and coordination. We paid a very heavy price in 1967, because we lived up to our commitments as members of the Arab League, and we respected our agreements in terms of the joint defense dimension within the Arab world. We knew fully well what the results might be. Yet, we lived up to our commitments, and we endured all the results, as hard as they have been. Later, we saw Egypt move on its own, too—and it was our leader, obviously, in that period, in the 1967 period—and achieve a peace treaty with Israel, and a situation of peace with Israel. We have done our best to move the Palestinian dimension forward. And suddenly, we saw our Palestinian brethren move, and they are the people most immediately concerned, and (?our concern) and achieve progress there. In this situation, we feel that nobody has the right to ask us what to do, and we have a responsibility toward ourselves, toward our country, toward our lands, toward our rights, to do whatever we can to move and safeguard our interests; and that is what we are doing, precisely. So, I hope that we will see progress on every other track, and we will see eventually the coming together of the comprehensive peace in the region. But, we are aware of our responsibilities towards our people, and we are carrying them out.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, can I ask you to step back from the daily news events, to look at the broader issue of democracy in the Middle East. Your kingdom has taken strides, but in most of the Arab world there is little or no movement, and in other places where it has been tried, there are breakdowns, in Yemen and Algeria. Could you reflect, for us, for a minute, on the prospects for democracy in the Arab world and the challenges that lie ahead?

[Husayn] As far as I am concerned, and many may or may not agree with me, democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights is the only way, is the best way. I hope that we have demonstrated that in Jordan that we will continue to do so in the times ahead and there is nothing more important than for people to feel that they are something, that they mean something, that they have rights to share in shaping their future. And I hope that Jordan will be a good example to others in that regard and in that respect. I believe when institutions are established, they are also a guarantee for continuity, for stability in the entire region. So we cannot claim to have the right to speak for others or advise others what to do, but as far as we are concerned, democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights, is a part of our very existence, and will continue to be always.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] experiments in Algeria and Yemen have been so unsuccessful so far, very discouraging to people who would like to support democracy in the Arab world?

[Husayn] Well, regarding Yemen, unfortunately, again, I didn't cover the answer in any great detail, but when one sees this ongoing struggle one is really puzzled because the unity was not created by force. The unity came as a result of the people of Yemen electing to have that unity come to be. There was a plebiscite, there was a formation of unity within the country, there was an election for a parliament, there was an election of a president, there was creation of something new, and suddenly we see it falling apart. Obviously what is in my heart is a wish that if there is any meaning to all these terrible losses that have occurred, that at least that is preserved somehow, and that dialogue will result in a solution to these problems. We have been involved in the problem to the best of our ability. We have tried to create bridges and a solid foundation for progress but that, in terms of the realities of the matter, required a political will at the very highest levels that maybe was not always there, and therefore it has failed. And I hope that somehow the Yemenis can pull it together, so that it is not a question of north and south but union for those who are opposed to it, and those who are opposed to it, I hope, will be a minority. But who can tell? I really can't tell what will happen.

[Correspondent] Concerning the confrontation, Your Excellency, the confrontation countries which are supposed to be meeting before any resumption of talks, has this formula ended now forever; that Jordan, Syria, PLO, and Lebanon meet with each other? Has it ended?

[Husayn] It hasn't necessarily ended, but here again, let me remind you that we were the people who are pushing for that more than any, and for coordination more than any. But the realities of the matter are that, maybe, we haven't all risen to the level that is needed to create the kind of coordination that could have been. Nonetheless, we are in touch and we hope that the results of our continued efforts, all of us, will enable us to achieve greater harmony and help each other in the times ahead.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, could you clarify one thing I am still a little confused about. You said at one point that a meeting with the Israeli leadership, and presumably Prime Minister Rabin, would be the natural outgrowth of negotiations with Israel that are about to resume in a week; that the negotiations could take place at any level, foreign minister, any level. At another point you said that a peace treaty was the crowning, will be, the crowning achievement of these negotiations. Is it possible that a meeting between yourself and Prime Minister Rabin may take place before a peace treaty is signed?

[Husayn] It is a very possible, anything is possible, sir. (?I am) quite flexible in that regard. But at the moment, there is a mechanism for negotiations and they are ongoing, and if and when there is a reason perceived by us, or by the Israelis, or jointly, for us to meet, then we will meet. It is not a taboo. There is nothing that will prevent that. And I hope it will come before too long.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, on boycott, how can Jordan implement all [words indistinct]?

[Husayn] Anyway, this is something that has to be discussed as well and resolved in the negotiations that will come.

[Correspondent] With Israel, not within the Arab world?

[Husayn] Within the Arab world! Do you think there is any boycott left?

[Correspondent] I mean the direct boycott.

[Husayn, amid laughter] (?No, no, no.)

[Correspondent] Since the announcement was made of the rapprochement between you and Israel last week, have you been in contact with any of the Gulf Arab countries, specifically Saudi Arabia, and shall we hope for a warming of the relationship between these two countries?

[Husayn] I haven't been in touch with any, apart from the normal contacts that we have with some of our brethren there. No, nothing else has happened.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, is there a better world understanding of Jordan's position during the Gulf War than before? And how will that help in enhancing Jordan's relations with the world?

[Husayn] I believe here there is a better understanding, yes, of Jordan's position during the Gulf War, and in the rest of the world that is also a fact. And I hope that our position will be understood for what it really was and what it really has been throughout that very dark moment, and it will always be. We have our own positions that we adopt as a result of what we believe is in the best interest of all. And our concerns for the region were real. And I think that they have been justified. We tried to prevent a war, we tried to reverse occupation peacefully. There was nothing wrong with that. Unfortunately, the problem is with some of our brethren who still believe that we knew that Kuwait was going to be attacked, that we were a party to a plan, allegedly, to create that eruption in that area, and this is totally false. And I wish to God that somebody will be able to come out and talk to us about it in any detail. We know where we are. We know where we were. So, somehow this problem has got to be addressed. It hasn't been, so far. We haven't been able to deal with it satisfactorily. And it would be in the interest of all to come out with [words indistinct] and find exactly what happened, who was responsible for concocting such an idea, to avoid falling into such pitfalls in the future. We have done everything on our side. We've indicated time and again that any step toward us will be met by two from us. But beyond that, we can't do more. So, we'll have to wait and see and in time, I hope that, things will move in the right direction.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, have there been any contacts with Egypt also regarding the progress as far as peace is concerned with Israel, any contacts with Cairo?

[Husayn] No contacts. In the sense of what context?

[Correspondent] I mean to apprise them of what is happening, just as Israel does, just as the Palestinians do, in that sense.

[Husayn] This happens normally, sir, it happens normally, but, have I talked to President Mubarak in the last period? This hasn't happened. I talked to him a while ago, around the 'Id time [21 May] but nothing (?came of it).

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, you said you meet, as you said, you meet frequently with President al-Asad, and you said, if I understood you correctly, that you understand each other's positions. Does that mean that should you meet with Prime Minister Rabin in the course of negotiations, when you thought the time was ripe, that you would assume that President al-Asad would understand that and there would not be any worsening of relations between...

[Husayn, interrupting] I don't think that there is any reason for the worsening of relations. There is every reason for the improvement of relations, and I hope that this will be a fact. I haven't heard from President al-Asad anything to the contrary. So, whatever has been said in that regard, I do not really consider to be all that important.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, would you describe the state of the Jordanian economy?

[Husayn] It is passing through a difficult phase. I think we have done a lot in the recent past, but we are carrying a very, very heavy burden, and I hope somehow that all the efforts will result in some improvement in terms of the Jordanian economy in the future, that all the opportunities that will be there would enable us to move ahead so that they will bring about a change in the quality of life of our people and meet their demands and needs and expectations regarding the future.

[Correspondent] What would a peace do [words indistinct]?

[Husayn] I think it will enhance these possibilities, but obviously we are passing through a moment where we hope that we will get support from a lot of friends throughout the world, including our friends here in the United States.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, there were so many reports about invitations for you to visit Jerusalem. Do you think you will visit Jerusalem even before the final status and negotiations are over, if you sign a treaty with Israel?

[Husayn] I think that there is a lot of speculation that is way ahead of what is realistic. So I can't say anything in that regard. It is obviously my hope as a Hashemite and a Muslim Arab, and as a Jordanian, that conditions will permit me to visit the holy places in Jerusalem when it is possible for me and for others, in a context of peace, where these holy places are respected by all of us and there are sacred to all of us and were [pauses]... sovereignty is that of the almighty God on all of them. I hope that I will be able to visit Jerusalem, yes. I hope it will not be long before that happens.

[Correspondent] Yes, may I ask, with Syria and Lebanon, like did you exchange any information after the agreement with Israel, and what is really (?it), because we cannot define exactly Syria and Lebanese positions at this stage?

[Husayn] I don't know, but I can tell you one thing. We have never, so far as I am concerned, up to this moment, been able to sit together with any of our Arab brethren and discuss everything in detail. They have their own problems, and we don't know about them until after the fact, and we have our own problems which we deal with. But in terms of a direction for peace, this is something that is (?universal) in terms of our determination to achieve it and I hope we will see progress to arrive at [sentence incomplete]

Possibility Raised of Husayn-Rabin Summit by Oct

JN2206135694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Report by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Excerpt] An official meeting—the first of its kind—between Jordan's King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin may be convened when the two sides sign a border demarcation agreement, expected to be wrapped up by 1 October, 1994.

King Husayn has often said that any official sessions with Israeli leaders should not be a media show, but must be the result of political forward movement. Hence, King Husayn's rejection in January of an American proposal for a meeting with Rabin at the White House before the peace negotiations achieved a breakthrough. However, the progress achieved in Washington 7 June when Jordan secured Israel's approval of a joint experts committee—set to meet next month in the region to delineate joint borders—broke the deadlock and paved the way for Jordanian-Israeli talks at the highest levels. [passage omitted]

'Arafat To Visit; Economic Accord To Be Signed

JN2206134294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jun 94 p 24

[Article by Nabil 'Amr]

[Excerpts] A senior Palestinian official has told AL-DUSTUR that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jordan at the end of this month, prior to his return to Palestine. During 'Arafat's visit, the Palestinian official said, Jordanian-Palestinian meetings will be held on the highest level, and the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement will be signed. The signing of the agreement has been postponed several times.

The official, who requested anonymity, said that the next Jordanian-Palestinian meetings will be extremely important, as conferees will discuss a Jordanian-Palestinian mechanism of action that is much more exhaustive than coordination. The official added that the Palestinian self-rule authority, which is the first Palestinian experience of its kind, needs an Arab effort to strengthen it and to protect it from the Israeli side, which is superior in terms of its economy, scientific knowledge, and technology. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the same Palestinian official revealed a Palestinian's wish to reassess the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He indicated that this agreement has only been initialed, and that the Palestinian side is not committed to implementing it if it harms the Palestinian people or will harm Jordanian-Palestinian economic relations, which are viewed by the Palestinians of the West Bank as the core of their Arab-Islamic extension.

He said that all the agreements that have been signed with Israel are temporary, since there are Palestinian rights that must be addressed and numerous topics of negotiations that must raised with Israel prior to the final peace accord. He said that this requires everyone to be careful when raising issues of a pan-Arab dimension and that Jordanian-Palestinian efforts should be united to safeguard these issues, chiefly the issue of Jerusalem, which should be the focus of Arab and Islamic efforts, rather than Jordanian and Palestinian efforts only.

Israeli Planes Attack Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC2106155894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Israeli warplanes attacked al-Luwayzah village in Iqlim al-Tuffah at 1805 today. The warplanes fired several rockets at the village, following which columns of smoke could be seen in the area.

Israeli warplanes are currently carrying out low-altitude flights over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah. The Lebanese Army is firing on the planes.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1930 GMT on 21 June in a similar report adds: "Israeli Air Force jets this evening attacked terrorist targets in the Jabal Safi region in south Lebanon. These targets serve as Hizballah training bases and staging points for attacks. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said that the pilots reported accurate hits and that all the planes returned safely to base."]

[Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 1530 GMT on 21 June reports: "In response to the Israeli attacks, resistance fighters attacked a post of the occupation forces in al-Zaffatah, setting a truck on fire. Columns of smoke were seen rising from the attacked position."]

Prime Minister al-Hariri Addresses Parliament

NC2106145794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Statement by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri to the Chamber of Deputies in Beirut on 21 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] Mr. Speaker, deputies: Since this government took office, it has been striving together with the honorable chamber to elevate our country and liberate it from several restrictions which have manacled it throughout the past years and made it a captive of several whims, mentalities, struggles, plots, and secret and non- secret designs. Certainly we have made great strides in this direction and have realized achievements that enable us to renew confidence in our future and to confront the challenges with the hoped-for level of national solidarity. [passage omitted]

Mr. Speaker, deputies: The delicate phase through which Lebanon is passing requires the highest degrees of vigilance and solidarity. We are facing fateful challenges that are first and foremost connected to liberating our land from the Israeli occupation and standing on a equal footing with the states joining us in the race toward the future in the Middle East. Therefore, I find myself obliged before your honorable chamber to underline the following points:

1. The liberation of our land from Israeli occupation is not subject to any kind of diplomatic debate. Therefore, it is not subject to bargaining with any regional or international body. Lebanon views the negotiations held in this connection as a means to achieve its liberation and not as an objective in itself to be used to cow Lebanon to go along with the Israeli objectives of controlling our land, water, and resources. In the past few weeks Lebanon has received several messages through security, diplomatic, and media avenues. It has been and is still being subjected to repeated Israeli attacks aimed at undermine its national strength and jeopardizing its relations with its big sister Syria. However, Lebanon can only take stances chosen by the people, stances compatible with its sovereignty, dignity, and its rights to land and resources.

I must stress here—in the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies—that Lebanon will not submit to Israeli pressures, regardless of their intensity. It reserves the right to use all means to liberate its land and impose its legitimate authority over all its territory. The Lebanese Government has shouldered its national responsibility in protecting Lebanon's principles on the issue of liberation. It reemphasizes today its rejection of any approach intended to make the Lebanese state a policeman for Israeli occupation, nor will we allow Israel to shrug off its responsibility for the occupation by clashing with the resistance, which is the natural outcome of the continuation of the occupation. All Lebanese have behaved with complete vigilance and responsibility regarding their right to resist the Israeli occupation, because this resistance is an inseparable part of the Lebanese national interest and results from the Lebanese consensus to end the occupation and safeguard our sovereignty. In any circumstance, the government can only be in a position to defend this interest and affirm this consensus.

The Lebanese state is not a tool in Israel's hands. Accordingly, it rejects any offers that aim to use it as a weapon used against its people. Resistance is not a target to be aimed at, but a right embodying the genuineness of the Lebanese people and their love of their land. We uphold our right to liberate our land. We uphold our right to resist the occupation. We uphold our right to restore our sovereignty and freedom on all our national soil. We will not be deflected from this course by pressures, messages, or warnings. Nor will we be deflected by the straying of some Arabs from the circle of Arab solidarity, or by others resorting to separate solutions.

The Lebanese Government will not depart from the line it has chosen toward the Arab brothers, even if some of them depart from it. Together with sister Syria, it will continue to negotiate when negotiations are a way to end the occupation, and to boycott when boycotts are in the national interest and are our duty. It is futile to call for us to return to peace under the threat of the sword's edge; it will crush peace, not achieve it. Therefore, we warn against the possibility of the failure of peace under the blows of Israel and its maneuvers. We address our warning to all those concerned with the issue of peace and who believe in the need for a just and comprehensive solution to the region's crisis.

2. The external dangers resulting from the continuation of Israeli occupation and attacks places on all of us—government, chamber, and people—the responsibility to stand in solidarity in the face of these dangers and not give those who would trample our security and sovereignty a chance to achieve their aims of dividing the domestic front.

Lebanon is facing the new regional storm by cooperating and coordinating with sister Syria and with its leadership, which has shown extraordinary courage in confronting crucial issues; it has displayed a responsible attitude toward Arab issues in general and toward Lebanon and its struggle for national peace in particular. Syria's support for us and its pan-Arab commitments to Lebanon and its people do not absolve us from our responsibility to our homeland and must not become a reason for weakening this responsibility.

Therefore, the Government wishes to reaffirm some principles that were mentioned in its last statement to this honorable chamber. These principles deal with the need to elevate political life to the level of civil peace and national detente. This is a very difficult task in a country which has suffered so long from chaos and sectarian and religious strife. Lebanon is trying to perform political miracles and to introduce the necessary legislation to emerge from the vestiges of that stage. [passage omitted]

3. The issue of media freedom is not the subject of a political argument, nor it is the subject of deep differences among the Lebanese or between the Government and any political party in Lebanon. The Government does not dispute the principle of this freedom at all. It does not allow itself to contest the issue of freedoms and their limits. However, it is natural for the Government to work to protect media freedom with a legal cover that will safeguard it and define the rules of the game. Before this Government, several governments tried to create an objective and responsible framework for the broadcast media. It was natural for all the debates and dialogues which accompanied these attempts to disagree on some points and agree on other points. It was not possible for the experiment to ripen quickly. Months passed before our Government settled this issue once and for all yesterday when it approved a broadcast media law which we hope your honorable chamber will discuss in a democratic and positive way.

The broadcast media bill approved yesterday is the first of its kind in Lebanon's legislative history and perhaps the first of its kind in the Arab world. As much as we wanted it to express the genuine relationship between freedom and Lebanon, we also wanted it to truly express the strong relationship between freedom and the law. [passage omitted]

4. The process of national reconstruction, which has proceeded along two parallel lines—completing the return of the refugees and restoring public services—will continue to be sponsored by the Government until it achieves its desired objectives as set down in the declared plans. We have given the issue of returning the refugees priority for our Government. The Ministry of Refugee Affairs has been able to take impressive steps both on returning lands and properties and paying compensations and in the area of promoting reconciliation among the inhabitants and enabling thousands of Lebanese citizens to return to their places of birth and residence. [passage omitted]

In the name of the Government, allow me to commend here in the honorable Chamber of Deputies the extraordinary effort made by His Excellency the Minister of Refugee Affairs Walid Junblatt and to put on record his responsible personal and public stand in protecting progress of the return and pushing it several steps forward, especially in the mountain area, which these days is witnessing blessed measures taken by the Lebanese army in Upper al-Matn, 'Alayh, and Al-Shuf. We hope that these measures will bear fruit in the coming months and will consolidate the march of national cohesion among all Lebanese in general and among the inhabitants of the mountains in particular.

Parallel to this, the government has mobilized its moral and material resources in the south and in the western al-Biqa'. It has earmarked the necessary funds to face the consequences of the Israeli attacks and to pay compensations to property owners and farmers who are targets of daily shelling. [passage omitted]

Minister Comments on Media Law, Newscasts Suspension

NC2106073294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents; after an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers in Beirut on 20 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Samahah] The Council of Ministers held an extraordinary session this evening that was attended by his excellency the president of the Republic.

During the session, the Council of Ministers approved the law on audiovisual media and referred it to the Chamber of Deputies for ratification. [passage omitted]

As approved by the Council of Ministers this evening, the audiovisual media law is basically characterized by the tendency to diversify the types of media establishments and guarantee their respect for the spirit and text of the Constitution, the national accord document, and the principle of enhancing Lebanese impunity based on integration and [word indistinct]. Moreover, it takes into consideration the adoption of a modern approach, both legally and practically, to the components of audiovisual media with a view to giving media establishments a legal status as being more serious establishments that basically depend on the national Lebanese production in their programs and freely select programs that respect our family, social, and national values to enrich the minds of our viewers and listeners and keep them informed about local and foreign news. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What about political programs and newscasts?

[Samahah] Political newscasts will be unrestricted for the establishments that apply for a license as public institutions broadcasting political news and programs within the context of established laws.

[Correspondent] Were amendments introduced on the law?

[Samahah] This 13-chapter and 47-article law underwent an in-depth discussion by the Council of Ministers and by the ad hoc committee before and after the cabinet session. Many amendments were introduced to enrich the law out of the cabinet's carefulness to safeguard the citizen's constitutional freedom.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Samahah] In the bill approved this evening, the government does not accept the state's control of shares in any mass media, apart from what the state already owns in Tele-Liban. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Will you permit mass media to broadcast the proceedings of the Chamber of Deputies session tomorrow at the suggestion of Speaker Nabih Birri?

[Samahah] We discussed the speaker's suggestion to let private mass media broadcast the proceedings of the Chamber of Deputies session tomorrow. The Council of Ministers decided to make this exclusive to Tele-Liban.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Samahah] The law did not address encouraging or discouraging the parties to do that. Just like other public institutions and citizens, parties have the right to have their own beliefs and to express these beliefs [words indistinct]

[Correspondent] Is it possible to allow private radios to broadcast newscasts at present, before the bill is enforced?

[Samahah] Up to now, nothing can be added to the cabinet decision on 23 March to suspend newscasts, until the bill is enforced. I cannot add anything to that decision. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Samahah] Practical measures to retype the law will be taken tomorrow or after tomorrow [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Samahah] According to the new law, the employment agency can own 35 percent of the shares of the radio or television company. Regular persons cannot own more than 10 percent of shares. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Cleared of Killing Libyan Dissident

NC2106204994 Paris AFP in English 2011 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, June 21 (AFP)—A Palestinian was cleared here of murdering a Libyan dissident in Germany but is still being detained for questioning about an anti-US bombing in Berlin eight years ago, his lawyer said.

The Lebanese criminal court pronounced Yasir Shuraydah, 34, not guilty in the 1984 murder of Mustafa al-'Ashiq in Germany. Another Palestinian, Ghassan Ayyub, was also cleared in the case.

Germany has demanded Shuraydah's extradition from Lebanon as part of investigations into the April 5, 1986 bombing of the La Belle discotheque in west Berlin frequented by US troops. There is no extradition treaty between Beirut and Bonn.

Under Lebanese law a foreigner living in Lebanon can be tried for a crime committed in this country or abroad and any extradition measure can only be decided by the cabinet after a verdict is pronounced.

The Lebanese authorities have not charged Shuraydah in connection with the La Belle attack and he has denied any involvement in the bombing that killed three people and wounded 230 others.

Washington blamed the attack on Libya. Ten days later US bombers blasted the headquarters of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli.

Shuraydah's lawyer, Muna al-Samrah, said that he was still being held at the Rumiyah prison, east of Beirut, where Ayyub is also detained. She said the pair were cleared of al-'Ashiq's murder "because there is no proof that they were guilty."

Shuraydah, who along with Ayyub comes from the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Palestinian refugee camp on the eastern outskirts of the port city of Sidon, was arrested here in 1991 in connection with a string of murders, attempted murder and burglaries.

Yemeni Official Brings Message for al-Asad

JN2106124694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Yemen's Presidential Council member and assistant secretary general of the General People's Congress, arrived in Damascus this afternoon. On hand to welcome him at Damascus International Airport was Mr. Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Ghani said upon arrival he was glad to be in Damascus. He also told SANA he was carrying a message from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad about Yemeni developments and ties between the two fraternal countries.

Radio Stresses Just, Not 'Hurried' Peace

JN2006142694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: These days, Israeli officials are stepping up their statements on the peace process and are urging Syria to speed up the peace talks before the U.S. administration halts its efforts to push the talks forward due to its numerous other international preoccupations. What is strange in these statements is that Israel is speaking for the United States and its officials in order to put pressure on Syria on behalf of the United States. Has President Clinton's administration authorized Israeli officials to speak for it about the peace process, or are the Tel Aviv rulers trying to hint that time is moving quickly and that Syria should catch the train of unilateral deals to bring about peace before it misses both the train and the fruits of these deals?

Speaking about Warren Christopher's time limits, Itamar Rabinovich, Israeli ambassador in Washington and head of the Israeli negotiating team with Syria, has warned that everyone should know that the opportunity is limited. Ambassador Rabinovich's statement is not the first nor the last of its kind. Israeli officials make proposals every day that have nothing to do with the bases of the peace process. Sometimes they demand that the level of the talks be promoted and at other times they declare that they want to know the nature of the peace Syria will give to them or they allege Syria is not serious in its talk about peace. In all cases, however, they stress they will not withdraw from the Golan Heights, although they have voiced their readiness to carry out some kind of withdrawal from the Golan Heights—a withdrawal that will not end the Israeli occupation or return the rights and the land to their rightful owners.

Its threats that the opportunity is limited and that time is short shows the true Israeli positions and the nature of Israel's intentions. The Israeli officials, who have wasted a great deal of time in futile talks over more than two and half years, are trying to use the same weapon of time against Syria to embarrass it in the international arena and portray it as the side that is hampering the peace process. These officials are mistaken if they believe that such attempts may succeed in making Syria enter into the trap of unilateral deals, as they succeeded with some sides, in order not to appear as an obstacle on the way to peace.

These attempts will not affect Syria's known position and cannot mislead the world public opinion, which knows the true situation in the region, as well those who are placing obstacles on the way to peace. Syria has always asserted that it is a peace-loving state. The whole world, led by the U.S. and the American sponsors of the peace process, also knows this fact. Syria's desire to establish peace does not mean it will accept unilateral deals or secret talks because of the time limit. Such deals have weakened the momentum of the peace process and lessened prospects of bringing about a just and comprehensive peace that can stand fast in the face of changes and meet the aspirations of the region's peoples and the world.

It is true that Syria wants peace, but it is also true that it is not in a hurry. The peace that Syria seeks is based on two principles: Justice and comprehensiveness in accordance with relevant UN resolutions—a peace that can restore the land and the rights regardless of time. What is important is the achievement of that peace. Syria is not responsible for hampering the peace march and wasting time. The whole world is well aware of who is responsible for that. A desire for peace can never mean embarking on the first train carrying that word. First, we have to make sure that the train is on the right railway. Otherwise, the peace train will not move, and even if it moves, it will not reach its target.

Bangladesh

Dhaka, Bangkok Agree To Expand Cooperation

BK1906124194 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Bangladesh and Thailand have decided to further enlarge the areas of cooperation in different fields to the mutual benefits of the two friendly countries. The agreement came at the fifth session of the joint commission for cooperation between the two countries held in Dhaka yesterday. The two sides expressed satisfaction (?over) the level of cooperation and agreed to expand (?further) the bilateral ties. Foreign ministers of the two countries signed an agreed minutes on the outcome of the joint commission meeting. Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman led the Bangladesh side at the meeting while the Thai delegation was headed by the visiting foreign minister, Prasong Sunsiri. Both sides also discussed the (?overall) global political and economic situation and agreed to work in concert for the benefits of the developing countries.

In the economic field, Bangladesh stressed the need for reducing the trade imbalance which is now in favor of Thailand. Prime Minister of Bangladesh has offered [words indistinct] imports. Bangladesh has also urged Thailand to invest in this country since the investment climate has already improved after several decisions taken by the government. The Thai side agreed that better investment climate now exists in Bangladesh and said it will explore it. The two sides also took up the visa matter and pointed out that certain limitations imposed recently on Bangladeshi travellers has a negative impact on business between Bangladesh Biman and Thai Airlines. The Thai foreign minister said they will consider this problem in due course.

Mr. Sunsiri leaves Dhaka for home today at the end of his official visit to Bangladesh.

Thai Minister Departs After Talks

BK2006025594 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister of Thailand Prasong Sunsiri has said the discussions he had during his stay in Dhaka will further strengthen the close ties between his country and Bangladesh. Talking to newsmen prior to his departure for home yesterday, the Thai foreign minister said the talks went on very well and the discussion at the Joint Commission for Cooperation took a number of decisions to expand economic and other cooperation. Mr. Sunsiri said talks under the aegis of the joint commission covered wide areas of mutual interest. He also expressed the hope that economic and other cooperation between the two friendly countries would be enlarged in the future.

The Bangladesh foreign minister, who led his country's side at the meeting of the commission, (?sharing the views) of his Thai counterpart said all actions [words indistinct] covered in the talks and [words indistinct] decision taken at the meeting. Foreign minister O.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman saw his Thai counterpart off at the airport.

Attack on Editor Linked to Fundamentalists

BK2106121194 Hong Kong AFP in English 1138 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Dhaka, June 21 (AFP)—A bomb attack early Tuesday [21 June] at the home of a Bangladeshi magazine editor was the latest strike in a campaign by Muslim fundamentalists, media sources said. Three powerful homemade bombs exploded at the gate of the Dhaka home of Shafik Rehman, editor of the popular Bengali language weekly JAI JAI DIN, or PASSING DAYS. No one was hurt in the blast.

Rehman faces a blasphemy charge for publishing a column by fugitive feminist doctor-turned-writer Taslima Nasreen, in hiding since religious charges were laid against her, and death threats made, for criticisms of the Koran.

Rehman told AFP in a telephone interview Tuesday that he felt insecure and held the fundamentalist Jagrata Towhidi Janata, or Rising Faithfuls, responsible because the group had threatened in a letter to take "appropriate steps" unless his magazine stopped publishing Nasreen's column.

"These groups are making non-issues an issue because our writings are hurting their bread and butter," he said.

Nasreen's regular column stopped appearing soon after she went into hiding early this month, and Rehman said he would not publish them if the opportunity arose because it would be "illegal now."

Police are still searching for Nasreen, 32, who faces charges of offending Muslim religious sentiment in an interview with an Indian newspaper. Nasreen denies suggesting rewriting the Koran, the holy book of Islam.

Rehman said the attack was triggered by a report in the pro-Islamic Daily INQILAB newspaper that a warrant for his arrest for blasphemy was issued Sunday was the reason for the attack. The court ordered his arrest after he failed to answer several summons and set a hearing for July 17, the Inqilab said. Government officials were not available for comment because of a national holiday.

Local resident Hafiz Abdul Alim charged that Rehman insulted religious feeling by comparing two Arabic letters to human genitals in his column Day after Day in November 1993. Rehman refuted the allegation, saying that the two letters were not only used in Urdu and Persian languages, but he used them in a joke about international politics without refering to Islam, religion or the Koran.

JAI JAI DIN was banned by former president Hussain Muhammad Ershad's government and Rehman returned from self-exile in London after the dictatorial regime's fall in December, 1990.

In recent weeks, fundamentalists have attacked other newspapers critical of them. Editors have warned Prime Minister Khaleda Zia about rising fundamentalism in the predominantly Moslem country. Three editors of the mass circulation Bengali daily JANAKANTHA newspaper were arrested recently for alleged blasphemy. Two were released on bail. Journalist union officials said 24 newspapers have been attacked in the past three years.

Rehman said he held a "a section of the government" responsible for the rise in fundamentalism because it had not taken any action against the issuers of the death threats on Nasreen.

Spokesman: VOA Report on Israel Ties 'Baseless'

BK2006061994 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Bangladesh has termed as baseless and without any foundation a report by the Voice of America [VOA] that Bangladesh is planning to establish diplomatic relations with Israel ahead of other Muslim countries. Expressing Bangladesh's surprise, the Foreign Office spokesman said the news item broadcast by VOA is not true. He said Bangladesh is committed toward a lasting peace in the Middle East and [word indistinct] it works on positive developments in the region.

India

First Stage Motor of GSLV Test Fired

BK2106125594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] The first stage motor of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV, has been test fired at the Mahendragiri complex of the Indian Space Research Organization near Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu. Reports say the tests carried out yesterday evening lasted 3 minutes 10 seconds.

Editorial Weighs Possible Russian Fighter Purchase

BK2206083694 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 17 Jun 94 p 6

[Editorial: "A Longer View"]

[Text] The Russians have reportedly offered India an improved Sukhoy fighter bomber aircraft, an earlier version of which—Su-27—has already been supplied to China. The Su-30 or Su-35 is an advanced version with air-to-air refuelling capability with impressive performance characteristics. India has had a satisfying experience with Russian aircraft and it is therefore natural for Russia, now anxious to earn foreign exchange, to offer its latest product to the Indian Air Force [IAF]. In the past, the IAF's approach to acquisitions of new aircraft have been rather ad hoc; decisions taken to produce some categories of aircraft under licence have not resulted in actual production and plans for doing so have been abandoned. In some other cases, the acquisitions have been in driblets with the result that the country has not got the best possible terms that could have been obtained if the entire purchase had been negotiated in one lot. Therefore, there is a good case now to work out a long-term plan for the future composition of the IAF over the next 25 years and examine whether the Russian Sukhoy offer fits into that scheme. Unlike at the time when the Mirage 2000 was purchased, we are not under any immediate threat from new acquisitions by Pakistan, which might disturb the balance of air power in the sub-continent. No doubt there is the possibility of the US sale of F-16s to Pakistan. But that alone cannot be allowed to determine the choice of the next generation of high performance aircraft into the IAF.

It is obvious that new Soviet aircraft will not be available on easy terms of credit as earlier. Since India has to pay in hard currency there has to be a rigorous cost-benefit evaluation of various options and the technology transfer and countertrade arrangements that could be available. Some may argue that Indian purchases of aircraft will provide a justification to the Americans to release F-16s to Pakistan. That argument can be turned around. Since there is the threat of a possible US sale of F-16s to Pakistan, India should explore all avenues and be ready to rectify any imbalance that may be caused by the F-16 transfer. Arms transfers are highly visible symbols of political relationship. In the post-Gorbachev era, Indo-Russian ties do not enjoy the same degree of closeness they once did. The Sukhoy offer would have to be influenced by the manner in which Russia agrees to solve the problem of supply of spares for equipment bought in the past. Russia will now have to prove that it is a reliable and dependable source of supply of armaments in the future.

Pakistani Intelligence Said Active in Northeast

BK2206094994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said that the Bodoland accord should be implemented in letter and spirit without adversely affecting the interest of any other section. Talking to newspersons last night at Guwahati, Mr. Chavan hoped that the state government will be able to sort out the differences relating to the demarcation of the boundary of the Bodoland Autonomous Council. The home minister said there has been distinct improvement in the law and order situation in Assam. The three-member team of union ministers headed by Mr. Chavan met a number of delegations representing various ethnic groups of Assam and heard their problems.

Mr. Chavan earlier said that Pakistan's Inter Service Intelligence, the ISI, had increased its activities in the northeast by operating through various militant organizations. He said much of it is controlled from ISI's Bangladesh bases. He hoped that with the agreement being reached with Bangladesh coordinated actions would be taken soon to end ISI activities. As reported, Bangladesh had agreed to cooperate in halting ISI activities in India.

The home minister has since arrived in Arunachal Pradesh's capital Itanagar on a two day visit to the state. He is accompanied by the minister of state for labor, Mr. P.A. Sangma, and the minister of state for personnel, Mrs. Margaret Alwa. The three-member team currently on a four-day visit to some of the northeastern states will meet the state governor, Mr. Prasad; the chief minister, Gegong Apong; and his cabinet colleagues and discuss various issues concerning the state.

Fourteen MP's Break Away From Janata Dal

BK2106160094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] The Janata Dal has split again with 14 members of the Lok Sabha deciding to form a new group. They all met the speaker in New Delhi today and made a formal request to allot them separate seats. The members include, Mr. Rabi Ray, Mr. George Fernandes, Mr. Chandrajit Yadav, Mr. Nitish Kumar, Mr. Abdul Gafoor, Mr. Harikishore Singh and Syed Shahabuddin. Ten of them are from Bihar.

At a joint news conference, the MP's claim to represent the real Janata Dal. They said following the refusal of Mr. V.P. Singh to assume the leadership, the Janata Dal has been without a sense of direction. He said there is no option but to split in order to revive the party. Leaders of the split group have decided to hold a national convention in August to formulate their future course of action. Mr. Rabi Ray claimed the support of majority of the Janata Dal parliamentary party and its state units. He firmly ruled out any of its member joining the Congress-I.

This is the second split in the Janata Dal after 1991 general elections. In 1992, 20 MP's led by Mr. Ajit Singh broke away from the party. Later, 17 of them joined the Congress-I in two stages. The rest of the group led by Mr. Rashid Masood merged with the Samajwadi Party. The Janata Dal leader and former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has described the split as a logical conclusion. He expressed the hope that the new party will unite the forces of social justice.

Iran

Continued Reaction to Mashhad Bombing Reported

Sunni, Shiite Muslims Stage March

LD2106180194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Excerpt] In protest against the criminal deed of ruthless monafeqin and mercenary agents of global arrogance in planting a bomb inside the holy shrine of the eighth Imam Reza—peace be upon him—various strata of the Muslim people of Zahedan, both Shiite and Sunni, staged a march today.

The Central News Unit reports that along the route of the march the mourners, by chanting such crushing slogans as "Death to America," "Death to Israel," "Death to hypocrites," "Today is the day of mourning," and "The leader Khamene'i is in charge of the mourning ceremony," renewed their eternal allegiance with the leader and the guardian of the Muslims' cause. They stressed their unbreakable unity. They also demonstrated their hatred and anger against this inhuman and anti-Islamic crime.

The concluding resolution of the rally, in part, while announcing readiness to obey and carry out the instructions of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the Muslims' cause, says: We, the Muslims and border guards of the Sistan va Baluchestan Province, declare our heartfelt hatred against all enemies of Islam, particularly the hireling monafeqin, and we call upon the authorities of the Islamic Republic to punish the perpetrators of this heart-rending tragedy. [passage omitted]

SAIRI Chairman Implicates Iraq

LD2106205194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1910 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Tehran, 21 Jun (KUNA)—Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] expressed his conviction in Tehran today that the Iraqi regime was involved in the Mashhad explosion which led to the killing and injuring of many Iranian and foreign visitors.

In a message of condolence to the leader of the Islamic Revolution, al-Hakim said: I believe that the fascist regime has had a hand in the barbaric and cruel attack on the visitors to the shrine.

He added: This great crime reminds us of the barbaric acts perpetrated by Saddam's regime and his criminal and two-faced allies; be it the killing of the participants in the Friday prayers in Tehran or attacking the holy shrines in Karbala and Najaf in Iraq and the killing of thousands of people mercilessly. [passage omitted]

Daily Says West Indirectly Responsible

LD2206070294 Tehran IRNA in English 0637 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 22, IRNA—A morning English daily here Wednesday [22 June] criticized the support of some of the Western governments for the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) and argued that the said countries were as much responsible for the last Monday's tragedy in Mashhad as the MKO themselves.

The 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial referred to the tragedy of bombing in Imam Reza (as) [expansion unknown] mausoleum in Khorasan Province, committed by the MKO, and noted that the terrorist group has always been enjoying the support of the Western governments.

The ironic aspect of the case, it added, was that Iran has constantly been accused by the Western countries and their regional allies of supporting the terrorist groups.

The Islamic Republic has often been the target of terrorist acts by MKO and has offered many martyrs from among the government authorities and the commom people in connection with blind acts of terrorism committed by the MKO who now have been forced to deny their involvement due to the horrible extent of the recent crime, added the paper.

Thus the present occasion would seem to be a proper moment to ask the Western countries and their allies "whether their blind support for this terrorist group accords with the principle of justice."

The Western governments have not only condoned the terrorist acts of MKO, but they have persisted in calling the Islamic Republic the supporter of terrorist groups, said the paper.

It noted in conclusion that as the crime was the most obvious form of violation of the human rights by MKO, the Westerners, as the self-styled advocates of the human rights, should revise their past hypocritical approach (towards Iran) and deliver the culprits to the Iranian nation.

Mourners Chant Anti-U.S. Slogans

LD2206103594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Excerpts] An unprecedented funeral ceremony was held in the holy city of Mashhad today for the martyrs of the Hoseyn's Ashura day incident inside the holy shrine of Imam Reza, amid the participation of the masses. [crowd chants "Death to the monafeqin," "Death to America," and "These are the evidences of the U.S. crime"]

The coffins were carried shoulder high by the people of Mashhad. The streets leading to the holy shrine were packed with masses of mourners, who, shedding tears, were offering condolences to Imam Reza for the desecration of his holy sanctuary. The city of Mashhad observed a holiday in solidarity to enable the people to attend the funeral ceremony for the 24 martyrs of the heinous crime of the monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq].

From the early hours of the morning masses of mourners moved to the streets leading to the holy shrine. [passage omitted] At about 1000, all the routes leading to the holy shrine were blocked due to the presence of so many mourners. [passage omitted]

President Interviewed on Foreign Relations

LD1706224094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1706 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Interview with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani by former French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and other members of selected panel in Crans Montana on 16 June—live; in French, with passage by passage translation into Persian by unidentified moderator; italics indicate portions audible in French that differ from Persian translation]

[Excerpt] [Dumas] *Mr. President, I am listening to our conversation in Spanish, this is one of the wonders of the airwaves, but it does not matter. We have a certain number of questions interesting those taking part in the forum and I would like to ask them.*

The first question concerns regional tensions centered around Iran. What will be the policy of the Islamic Republic toward the territories occupied by Kurdish people in Iraq and Turkey? Second, what do you think about the development of ethnic conflicts in the republics of the former Soviet Union, and what is the Islamic Republic's attitude concerning these conflicts? This is the first question summing up the various interventions from the participants to the forum.

[Unidentified moderator] Your Excellency, Mr. President. My first question is regarding relations between Iran and its neighbors, in particular the territories in Iraq and Turkey inhabited by Kurds. The second question is on the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward differences in the states of the former Soviet Union?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] On Iran's neighbors. Our principled policy is to have peaceful and friendly cooperation with them. And should issues occur, the principle is to solve them through negotiation and debate. Regarding Iraq and Kordestan, naturally our declared policy is to respect Iraq's territorial integrity. Territorial integrity must be maintained. The Kurds in Turkey and Iraq will be members of these countries. However, it is of course possible in these countries to give them rights, as a nationality, with their own consent.

Regarding the states which have separated from the former Soviet Union. Unfortunately, difference have occurred in some places. Our policy is to help them solve the differences. Our advice to others, even Russia, is not to interfere in these countries. In a country where people have been liberated after 70 years, it is natural to have various forms of demands and for differences to occur. Others should help solve the problems properly, not interfere, and not weaken the independence of the country.

[Dumas] *Thank you, Mr. President. If I may, I will ask two other questions—one about an issue of great concerns to Europeans, namely Bosnia. As we all know, there are armed Muslims opposing Serbs in several regiosn of Bosnia, there is a war. How do you see Iran's role? What role can Iran play in this situation? Is it a purely diplomatic role? Could it be a support for these combatants taking the form of arms supplies? Or coudl we envisage a direct intervention? What is your country's position on this worrying Bosnian conflict?*

[Moderator] Your Excellency Mr. President. Thank you for the answers, and now I must ask another question. My first question is about Bosnia. As you know, a group of Muslims live in this country and are in conflict with the Serbs. What is the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding these Muslims? Does Iran have a purely political role or a role in providing arms to the Muslims? Are the other means of aid provided by the Islamic Republic a form of direct interference, or do they come under the category of ordinary aid?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding Bosnia. Unfortunately, there has been a tragic situation there. The hands of the majority of the people of this country have been tied, but a minority, the Serbs, have been allowed to commit aggression. That is, they can have a direct link with the former Yugoslavia, which supports them. Our policy is to end the war, with the help of the United Nations and you, the powerful European countries and neighbors, and through peaceful ways and negotiations. If the war is to continue, despite the intentions and wishes of all sincere individuals, the present situation will have to change. If you, the United Nations and others, feel unable to end the war, you should allow the innocent party to have defensive capabilities.

Of course, we have until now acted according to the UN policy. Our aid has been very clear. It was financial, fuel, and humanitarian. We proposed to send a peacekeeping force, because it has been said that the peacekeeping force there is weak. In the future we shall try to progress with the UN policy. But we firmly ask everyone to have a just policy. Do not allow the violation of a peoples' right. This would create a center of aggravation and disease in the Balkan region, and this would be difficult to cure in the future.

[Moderator] Thank you, Mr. President for your reply. One of the gentlemen at the session wishes to ask you a question.

[J.P. Carteron, not further identified, in French] *Mr. President, I would like to ask you a very important question for us here. Iran's relations with France and Switzerland are not good. Serious court cases provoking a violent dispute are currently under way. Your deputy foreign Minister, Mahmoud Va'ezi, was recently received by French President Francois Mitterrand. This is obviously a gesture by both sides. Does this represent a coming together? At last, Mr. President, I would like you to tell us, how do you see the means to improve your relations with France and Switzerland on a very specific plan?*

[Moderator] Mr. President, my question is considered very important here. My question concerns France's and Switzerland's relations with Iran, which are not at all good. Recently Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Va'ezi was in France, where he met Francois Mitterrand, and apparently some measures were taken. In your excellency's opinion, what are the significant factors contributing to the improvement of Iran's relations with France and Switzerland, and what suggestions can you make in that respect?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Very well. It is possible to speak in length about that, but our time is short here. I think if our friends in France try not to be influenced by the false propaganda which is waged against Iranian policies, then we can quite easily expand our cooperation. The political intent toward further cooperation exists in Iran. [passage omitted]

[Dumas] Thank you, Mr. President. Could I ask you now a question about a worrying issue—Algeria? As you know, the Islamic Salvation Front, the FIS, is openly fighting the authorities in Algeria. What attitude does Iran want and what attitude can it adopt concerning this situation? I sum up: Can Iran be a mere observer, a mediator, or is it actively supporting the FIS?

[Moderator] Thank you, Your Excellency Mr. President. My other question is regarding Algeria. As you know, fundamentalist Muslims, the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], are virtually at war with the Algerian Government. I would like to know, what is the policy of the Islamic Republic here? Has there only been advice or has there been help by the Islamic Republic for these groups?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The Algerian issue must be important for you, as well. An unfortunate event occurred in Algeria and the vote of a nation's majority was not respected. I think it must be one of the most bitter problems for the champions of democracy. We think the solution in Algeria lies in respect for people's vote. I think we have been blamed because we spoke our views frankly and without hesitation. There has been no other interference on our behalf in the Algerian issue.

Our advice to you, as well as the people and Government of Algeria, is that we should come out of this. There is no other way except respect for people's vote. We are not at all happy with the destruction and the killings in this Muslim country. We are surprised that you, the champions of democracy, fail to see this very clear situation. I wish you would also answer this question of mine. [passage omitted]

Velayati Views Role of Hizballah

AU2006143894 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 20 Jun 94 pp 150,152

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: " 'Arafat Will Become Mayor"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat now wants to visit the autonomous regions of Gaza and Jericho. However, instead of promoting the process of reconciliation in the Middle East, Iran supports the Islamic resistance fighters of the Hizballah in southern Lebanon who are firing Katyusha missiles against Israel.

[Velayati] The behavior of the Hizballah and of the "Palestinian group" are two completely different things. The Hizballah is a Lebanese organization. It defends its country, whose southern part is occupied. Resistance against this occupation is legitimate.

[DER SPIEGEL] Yet it also support the Palestinian underground organization Hamas; Israel's and the PLO's most dangerous opponent.

[Velayati] We have practically not taken any measures against the PLO. We only said from the very beginning that this agreement will not solve Palestine's problems. What was the result of the agreement? 'Arafat will become mayor of Gaza, but that is it. What process should we promote?

[DER SPIEGEL] Would it not be about time for Iran to recognize Israel?

[Velayati] Israel is an usurpatory regime that we do not recognize.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is Iran not pretending to be more Palestinian than the Palestinians themselves?

[Velayati] First 'Arafat should prove that he is the representative of all Palestinians—which he is not.

[DER SPIEGEL] Even Syria holds negotiations with the Israeli archenemy on a "real and comprehensive peace."

[Velayati] That's Syria's business. However, as far as we know, the peace talks are stalled. Syria refuses to continue negotiations with Israel. To exert pressure on Damascus, Israel attacked Lebanon again recently.

[DER SPIEGEL] However, if Syria and Lebanon, which depends on Syria, make peace with Israel, the days of the Hizballah are numbered—or the fighters for God would have to rise against the Lebanese and the Syrian Armies.

[Velayati] Hizballah's prospects for a political future are good. As a party, it even bears responsibility in the Lebanese Government and enjoys a great deal of support. For this reason, the Hizballah will not fight against the Lebanese Government.

[DER SPIEGEL] In Yemen, too, where the fundamentalist north and the socialist south are engaged in a fierce battle, Iran is allegedly fomenting unrest. It is reportedly supplying North Yemen's President Salih 'Ali 'Abdallah with weapons.

[Velayati] We do not support either side. Our principle is: First, the unity of the country should be preserved, and, second, the conflict should be settled peacefully.

[DER SPIEGEL] Yet South Yemen has reported Iranian fighter aircraft in the north.

[Velayati] This is simply not true.

[DER SPIEGEL] However, the Islamic-conservative north is closer to Iran.

[Velayati] No, we are interested in all Yemenis, who are one people and one nation—like the Germans.

[DER SPIEGEL] The West—and the Arab states—are concerned about continued Iranian efforts to export its Islamic revolutionary model, thus causing additional unrest in the Middle East region.

[Velayati] These accusations are not justified. We do not export our revolution with the use of force.

[DER SPIEGEL] Islamic fundamentalists in Sudan or in Algeria are boasting that they have been trained and supplied with weapons by Tehran for their armed fight against lay and pro-Western regimes.

[Velayati] I reject this allegation vehemently. Instead of exporting violence, we are trying to cooperate with our neighbors and promote economic cooperation in the region.

[DER SPIEGEL] You have even established contact with your long-time war enemy, Iraq. You will shortly travel to Baghdad for talks.

[Velayati] We want to have good relations with all our neighbors, including Iraq. If Saddam Husayn is president—this is none of our business. We will not interfere.

[DER SPIEGEL] Four officials of the Kurdish party banned in Iran were killed in Berlin in October 1992 by a killer commando. The secret service of your government is believed to be behind the attack.

[Velayati] This is not true. We vehemently reject this accusation.

[DER SPIEGEL] In the so-called Mykonos trial, the federal public prosecutor described Tehran as the mastermind of the operation and accused your government of state terrorism.

[Velayati] This is his business. It is our task to support Iranian citizens who are facing trial abroad. After all, Iran is their home country. However, there is no link between these people and our government.

[DER SPIEGEL] Above all, extremists like Ayatollah Mohtashemi are believed to promote the export of terrorism. Has the more Western-oriented head of state 'Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani lost the fight against the radicals in his own ranks?

[Velayati] Everybody can have his own political ideas and he is allowed to express them. However, our government makes the decisions in foreign policy. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is a very powerful head of state.

Cairo Office Denies Bosnia Weapons Shipments

NC2106100394 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Jun 94 p 7

[Text] Commenting on the interview that AL-SHA'B had conducted with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian interests section office in Cairo has clarified that Iran denies all the reports that it is sending weapons to Bosnia in violation of the international resolutions.

The office reiterated Iran's declaration of support for the oppressed Bosnian Muslim people on all levels and added that the embargo on weapons to Bosnia to defend its rights is unfair and that Iran is seriously demanding the lifting of this embargo.

Meshkini Says Khamene'i Can Override Fatwa

LD2006091494 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1402 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah 'Ali Akbar Meshkini-Qomi in Qom on 17 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Apparently, during the same gathering in Crans Montana an interview was arranged where the Iranian president carried out an interview with them by satellite—for questions to be put to the president and the respected president to respond to them. He replied and made Iranians proud. I listened to the contents of the president's replies. They were all excellent. The nation endorses such issues [crowd chants: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to the anti-independence and revolution"], especially as his remarks were in accordance with the high objectives of the nation and in line with the wishes of our great leader [Khamene'i]. I hope that God makes his words effective.

Another point I should mention here is that the eminent leader's directions should be implemented by the people. When we speak of the eminent leader... [pauses] The same reasons that since the era of the Shaykh Mofid [Islamic scholar] until now have given the great personalities and sources of emulation legitimacy, religious authority, religious leadership, influence of word, authority to be obeyed, they have made our great leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i as well. [crowd chants: "Peace be upon Prophet Muhammad and his scion"] We recognize the authority of our leader as a leader for the same reasons that we recognized the grand Ayatollahs Esfahani, Borujerdi, Hakim, Ruhollah [Khomeyni], Golpayegani, and 'Araki, may God extend their shadow.

Please pay attention: His order is influential. If even a religious leader issues a fatwa [religious edict] and Khamene'i issues a ruling, that ruling takes precedence over the fatwa. If a religious leader has written a book of religious practices—and he has the right to do so, he is an honorable source of emulation—he has written in his book of religious practices. I think it is religiously forbidden to enter arms deals with a certain country. That becomes a fatwa. Then the leader sits down and finds that to deal in arms with such and such a country is appropriate today. He issues a ruling that the government should sell arms. The government is obliged to carry out the ruling and set aside the fatwa, that is because the religious leaders here say: A ruling cancels a fatwa, but a fatwa does not cancel a ruling. [previous clause in Arabic] [passage omitted]

Foreign Satellite TV Broadcasts Jammed

NC1806173794 Paris AFP in English 1709 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 18 (AFP)—Foreign television programs received by satellite have been jammed in Iran since Friday [17 June], viewers said here Saturday. However the jamming of some 30 European, American and Asian channels has not been publicly announced.

Viewers said programs received via the Asia-Sat and Arab-Sat satellites had been garbled more or less depending on the district, with parallel lines appearing on TV screens. The jamming follows debate in Iran on whether or not to ban satellite dishes, which have mushroomed on rooftops in Tehran and other cities allowing up to two million people to view foreign broadcasts.

Under pressure from Islamic conservatives and hardliners, parliament is soon to debate the issue as part of moves to check Western cultural influence. The jamming also came after Iranian state television announced it would broadcast the World Cup live from the United States in a bid to compete with the increasingly popular satellite programs.

A newspaper reported here Thursday that in a crackdown on "social corruption," authorities in Iran had seized 1,965 television satellite dishes destined for Iranian consumers.

Pakistan

Peacekeeping Contingent Leaves for Bosnia

BK1806144994 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] The third group of 300 Pakistani troops left Lahore today for the Slovak Republic for onward deployment in Bosnia on UN peacekeeping duties. At

Lahore airport, the contingent was seen off by senior army officers. The group will have the requisite training in the Slovak Republic for a period of two weeks and will then take up duties in the war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina. The remaining troops of the main body will directly fly to Bosnia under a phased program expected to be completed by the end of July.

U.S. Initiative for S. Asian Security Viewed

BK2006015094 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

["News Analysis" by Anwer Khalil: "US Initiative for S Asia Regional Security"]

[Text] A new US diplomatic offensive seems to be in the offing to bring Pakistan under a regional security arrangement in South Asia supervised by India on behalf of the sole surviving superpower. Unconfirmed reports say that the latest non-papers or informal proposals received from the US underline the importance of a regional security system in South Asia. The presence here earlier this month of Mr Robert Oakley as also of some other experts who work for the State Department confirms that the "quiet diplomacy" to promote understanding between the United States and Pakistan is continuing. That in itself would be welcomed by many observes but there are others who think that any major initiatives need to be shared with the people and discussed publicity.

In the absence of any authoritative information on the subject, one has to rely on whatever unconfirmed reports are available. It is said that the US now wants Pakistan to adopt a regionalist approach and support a collective security system in South Asia. So far as Pakistan's disputes with India are concerned these should be tackled bilaterally with India. Translated in simple terms, it means that.

1—Pakistan shall not raise Kashmir in bilateral talks with the US. The issue shall be be raised with India bilaterally.

2—Pakistan's nuclear programme should be discussed without linking it to the Indian nuclear programme.

3—The US concerns about security and stability in South Asia can best be addressed through a collective security arrangement jointed by all states in South Asia.

The concept of regional security is not new. And it has been frequently raised. From mid-level US officials to President Clinton.

All have mentioned security in South Asia a workable concept. [sentence as published] Perhaps it also came under discussion in Pak-US talks previously but this time, the theme seems to be central. One reason might be Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's Washington visit in May last. This is particularly relevant because the United States, over the last three years at least, has held a series of discussions with India on the subject. In 1992, the US held two rounds of bilateral talks with India on South Asian regional security and sought to obtain India's thoughts on how appropriately structured regional talks might deal with the underlying security concerns.

This was followed up with more talks on South Asian security—in April this year. Mr Talbott, on his first visit abroad as US deputy secretary of state, arrived in New Delhi on what be described as "a mission of consultation between friends". During his talks in New Delhi, Mr Talbott "underscored the US commitment to promote greater peace and security in South Asia through both multilateral and bilateral initiatives". Two days later, addressing a press conference in Islamabad, he talked of a "multilateral forum" which he felt "would very much serve the interests of non-proliferation, of disarmament, of arms control and of security issues in general".

Apparently in the continuing discussions which followed Mr Talbott's visit in April this year, the important points elaborated include the high desirability of a multilateral forum to ensure security in South Asia.

In fact Mr Talbott had also hinted at the US exasperation at Pakistan's habit of linking Kashmir issue with all questions of security and non-proliferation. Mr Talbott advised us not to look backward saying that history is a complicating factor. He made it very clear that "the issue of non-proliferation is so important and so complex in itself, that it needs to be addressed very much in its own terms". Mr Talbott was also very categorical about delinking India from Pakistan-US bilateral relations. He minced no words when he said in Islamabad that Pakistan and India in "much of the last half century have been caught up in a zero-sum game, and that has influenced the United States in a way that we want very much to break out of." He plainly informed that "when American officials come here in future, they would not like to hear about Pakistan's problems with India." Talbott said this in April, 1994 and since then more than one team of Americans have come and gone. Mr Oakley was one such American and he seems to have used a more plain language than others.

Regional security and conflict resolution: The US policy-makers perceive South-Asia as a potential flashpoint of a nuclear flare-up. Their logic is simple: The Kashmir problem, has already led the two major countries of the region, India and Pakistan, to fight three wars. The freedom movement in the Indian held Kashmir is creating its own heat and the cost of keeping the territory and the people of Kashmir under its hold is increasingly becoming unbearable for India. Pakistan is providing moral (and supposedly also material) support to the Kashmiri freedom-fighters. Since India is not likely to accede to the demands of the right of self-determination of the Kashmiris, there is bound to be a flare-up between the two rivals at some point. And since both are presumed to be nuclear threshold powers, the next round of war between India and Pakistan according to the Americans, has to be fought with nuclear weapons.

The truth is that the whole sequence cannot be dismissed as mere nonsense. The issue of Kashmir is very real and, despite the passage of more than four decades, has refused to be buried under the debris of broken promises both at the global level by the UN and regionally by the Indian leaders. There are, however, too many gaps and too many suppositions in the sequence. The thinking based on so faulty a reasoning can only lead to the kind of confusion manifest in the US initiatives taken one after the other. Each initiative was abandoned in quick succession and without making any real political effort to achieve the objectives. **Alternate Options:** Ever since it took the decision to stop all economic and military assistance to Pakistan, no US Administration had been able to come up with any meaningful basis for an enduring bilateral relationship between the two countries. If a bunch of US legislators in their anxiety to punish Pakistan exerted more pressure than what would have been civilised and if some of the more influential managers sitting next to the Foggy Bottom in Washington thought that the stoppage of all economic and military assistance will bring Pakistan to its knees and make it accept dictation, that can be condoned as one of the chronic bouts of arrogance that the mid-level representatives of a superpower are prone to suffer from. In any case, they stand disappointed. There were and there are many on the Capital Hill and at the State Department who did not agree with what was done to a close ally. What is unbelievable, however, is that no one had thought about policy options before demolishing the existing one. The result is that US policy for this region has continued to drift from one set of options to another without achieving anything tangible. First, it was the five-nation moot. Much time and effort was wasted in pursuit of this proposal. Then there was a new cry: "Preventive diplomacy". South Asia was declared to be the best place to demonstrate the efficacy of this new concept in managing affairs of the world. The tone and substance of this new slogan was undoubtedly in harmony with the new US role as the sole surviving superpower, particularly when the US took upon itself to rid the mankind of all evils, big and small. Well, the concept was too universal to fire the imagination of the people in a small region of the globe.

And now this new initiative of a regional security system for South Asia. There are two reasons why Pakistan shall reject this proposal outright. One: Because this will put an immediate freeze on the Kashmir issue which Pakistan simply cannot afford. And two because the proposal is calculated to completely exclude a role for China in South Asia.

This does not mean that the situation in South Asia is permanently disqualified from coming under a joint security system sustained and administered basically by the states in the region. Perhaps it would need a bold initiative in establishing a regional conflict resolution mechanism under the over-all supervision of the United Nations and supported by the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Sharif Charged With Defaming Leghari, Bhutto

BK1706060694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Special Public Prosecutor Raja Abdul Aziz Bhatti yesterday filed two criminal cases of defamation against Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in the court of the district and sessions judge of Rawalpindi on behalf of the president and the prime minister.

During a news conference on 30 April in Karachi, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif had reportedly leveled serious charges of corruption against the president, prime minister and her husband, and the federal commerce minister in the cotton export deal. While challenging these charges, the special public prosecutor said that these charges were false, baseless, and devoid of truth. He said this has not only hurt the prestige of the president, the prime minister and her husband and the federal commerce minister, but the people were misled by its widespread publicity.

The court has summoned Mohammad Nawaz Sharif on 4 July.

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